



Kingswood Elementary STEM Newsletter

Engineering Our Future

Science * Technology * Engineering * Math



September 2014 Issue

Kingswood Elementary

Cary, NC

Welcome!

We are so excited to have you at Kingswood. Your kids and family will enjoy some exciting STEM events planned this year: Students will enjoy a Science & Engineering Fair, STEM Expo, Outdoor Learning Centers, STEM Challenges, Family STEM Challenges, Monthly Class Challenges, Saturday STEM outings, and student clubs. As always we encourage families to incorporate STEM-related activities at home through games, books, field trips, and videos. If you would like more information, please visit our STEM website at: <http://kingswoodelemstem.weebly.com/>

Upcoming September Events

- 9/8: Individual STEM Challenges begin
- 9/16: Family STEM Challenge at PTA Meeting and Open House - 6 p.m.
- 9/20: STEM Saturday at Kingswood - 10 a.m.
- 9/22: Science & Engineering Fair packets available for 3rd - 5th grade students.
- 9/29: Science & Engineering project selection forms due.
- 9/30: Monthly Classroom STEM Challenge ends

Outdoor Learning Centers

During the 2014-2015 school year, we plan to create outdoor learning centers. These centers will combine STEM concepts with Montessori based activities. Students will enjoy these outdoor learning opportunities year round. We invite you to help us create these centers by donating items or assisting in set up of centers. For more information on centers, donations, and volunteers, please visit: <http://kesoutdoorlearningcenters.weebly.com/>

Individual STEM Challenges

STEM Challenges are a fun assignment that is completed at home. This year, each student will get to pick a STEM Challenge track based on interest level. Students may complete as many challenges throughout the year. The STEM Challenge ends on May 18th.

Students may turn in their completed work from the challenge at any time. If students participate in the STEM Saturday, they will automatically complete the challenge. Students will receive a certificate and prize. Their badge will be displayed outside their classroom door. At the end of the year, students will be rewarded for their hard work with STEM awards at their End of Grade Awards ceremony.

STEM Saturdays

Families are invited to our STEM Saturday event. We will meet to complete a STEM Challenge track. There will be fun activities, challenges, and games. We may have a guest speaker. Every student who participates and completes work will automatically complete their STEM Challenge. They will receive a certificate, badge, and prize within the next two weeks.

On Saturday, September 20th, we will complete the Nature Explorer Challenge. Students will complete a nature, scavenger hunt. We will discover mysterious animals. We will complete a Bugging out in Insectville game.



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Family STEM Challenge

At PTA events, you can participate in a Family STEM Challenge. We will have a fun challenge from one of our Outdoor Learning Centers. You may need to solve a problem, build a structure, or answer a question. The winning family receives a gift bag. Families will be recognized at the STEM Awards in June.

Kingswood Science and Engineering Fair

3rd - 5th grade students will have their Science and Engineering Fair on November 20th. Some students will be selected to move onto the Regional Science and Engineering Fair on February 7, 2015. Our Pre-K - 2nd grade students will have their Science and Engineering Fair on April 16th.

On September 22nd, 3rd - 5th grade students will receive their Science and Engineering packet. You may have several questions throughout the process. The hardest part is figuring out what to do for a Science Fair project. Amy Napier will be the mentor and coordinator. If you have any questions, please contact her at: amynap24@hotmail.com or 919-465-4217.

STEM Expo

Everyone is invited to our Fall STEM Expo on November 20th. You can view the 3rd - 5th grade Science & Engineering projects. You are also invited to our Spring STEM Expo on April 16th. You can view the Pre-K - 2nd grade Science & Engineering projects. We will have fun, STEM Challenges, activities, exhibits, and visitors.

Monthly Classroom STEM Challenge

Each class will complete a STEM Challenge as a team. They may have to figure out what to make with 100 pencils or how to build a stable bridge. Classes within each grade will receive a first, second, or third place trophy classroom display in that month's challenge. At the end of the year, students will discover who won the Classroom STEM Challenge for their grade level.

STEM Professionals & Volunteers Needed

If you have a degree or work within the STEM field, please let us know. We are looking for Science & Engineering judges, guest speakers, volunteers, etc. We would love to connect you within our STEM program.

Any parent can volunteer on the STEM committee or STEM events. If you would like to get involved, please contact Amy Napier at: amynap24@hotmail.com or 919-465-4217.

Family STEM Night

To encourage STEM learning at home, you may choose to have a Family STEM Night once a month. Some ideas include:

Family games: Operation, Jenga, chess, Lego Creationary, Monopoly

Family movies: Wall-E, Happy Feet, Ice Age, A Bug's Life, Finding Nemo

Online games: <http://kingswoodelemstem.weebly.com/stem-resources.html>

Activities: Building a Lego tower or building, creating a row of dominoes before toppling it

Reading books: You can read a book as a family. Some ideas include: The Magic School

Bus, Sid the Science Kid, or National Geographic Kids Readers

Have a fun, family STEM adventure!