



Sept. 2013 Issue

Kingswood Elementary

Cary, NC

Welcome!

We are so excited to offer a STEM program at Kingswood Elementary. Kingswood is a NC STEM Learning Network School. Our teachers are trained to provide an interdisciplinary approach by integrating science, technology, engineering, and math in all Common Core State Standards through project-based learning. We have some exciting events planned this year. Students will enjoy a science fair, STEM Expo, science night, math night, student clubs, and STEM challenges. 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>

1st Quarter: All About Science

During each quarter, we will highlight one aspect of STEM. This quarter, we will focus on science. Students may browse the trophy case display case of famous scientists such as Dr. Charles Drew, Luis Alvarez, Dr. Steven Chu, Albert Einstein, and Sally Ride. They can see inspirational posters around the school about jobs or accomplishments within science. There are many fields within science that your child may show interest in. He may be interested in conducting experiments just like scientists. She may want to figure out how a machine works or how to build one. Your children may like to explore their environment on nature walks by studying the different colors, shapes, and textures of rocks. Their interest may go beyond our planet in learning more about Curiosity on Mars. We hope that STEM-related lessons, activities, clubs, events, and challenges will spark an interest in science, technology, engineering, and math. Who knows? We may have a student who goes on to find the cure for cancer, journey into space, or teach a new generation.

Kingswood Science Fair

Who will be Kingswood's STEM Idol? The 3rd - 5th grade students will compete for the title when they display their science fair projects on November 14th. K - 2nd grade students will have their science fair on April 10th. Kingswood's STEM Idol winners will receive a ribbon and be recognized at our STEM Awards Night on June 5th. You will soon receive more information about the science fair. So have your children start thinking about a great project. Good luck!

If you would like to serve on the STEM committee or volunteer at STEM-related events, please contact Amy Napier at: amynap24@hotmail.com or call 919-465-4217. Thanks!



STEM Challenges

Each quarter, we will issue students a STEM challenge. This is a fun assignment that they may voluntarily complete at home. A STEM challenge is a great way for students to read, discover, and explore more about science, technology, engineering, and math. Students will have eight weeks to complete the challenge. They may turn in their assignment to their homeroom teacher at any time before the deadline.

Students will be recognized at the end of each quarter for completing the challenge.

Children who finish all four challenges will be honored at our STEM Awards Night on June 5th. Enjoy your STEM challenges!

1st Quarter STEM Challenge: Science

Challenge begins: Sept. 16th

Challenge ends: November 1st

Students will receive a flyer with detailed guidelines and expectations. Here is a condensed list of STEM challenges to complete.

Read: Check out a book about science at our Kingswood library. Students will complete a small report to turn in.

Discover: Choose one fun activity. 3rd - 5th graders will complete and turn in their science fair project on November 14th. Adult supervision is required for experiments and inventions. K - 2nd graders will have fun activities involving animals or the weather.

Explore: Go on a family field trip. Students will have a variety of options to choose from. Some ideas include: go on a nature trail, visit a museum, visit a pet store, or visit a local, science store.

Family STEM Night

To encourage STEM learning at home, you may choose to have a Family STEM Night once a month. This can be a fun experience where your children may not realize that they are learning about science or math. 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!

*"Science is not merely a collection of facts printed in an encyclopedia.
It is a living adventure of the human spirit." (Source unknown).*