



Nov. 2013 Issue

Kingswood Elementary

Cary, NC

Welcome!

We are so excited to offer a STEM program at Kingswood Elementary. Kingwood 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>

2nd Quarter: All About Technology

During each quarter, we will highlight one aspect of STEM. This quarter, we will focus on technology. Can you imagine going through one day without technology? Kids might have a hard time figuring out how to pass the time when the power goes out.

Technology has made our lives different. We are safer due to inventions such as seat belts, air bags, and smoke detectors. Our medical field has changed with pacemakers, defibrillators, MRIs, and x-rays. Our communication options have increased with communication satellites, the Internet, and mobile devices. Our police and military are safer with Kevlar for body armor. In fact, we have a hard time going undetected from technology such as GPS, radar, sonar, and DNA analysis.

Students may browse the trophy display case highlighting technological advances such as the laser beam that can be used to scan groceries, whiten teeth, correct vision, and track missiles. They can see inspirational posters around the school about jobs or accomplishments within the field of technology.

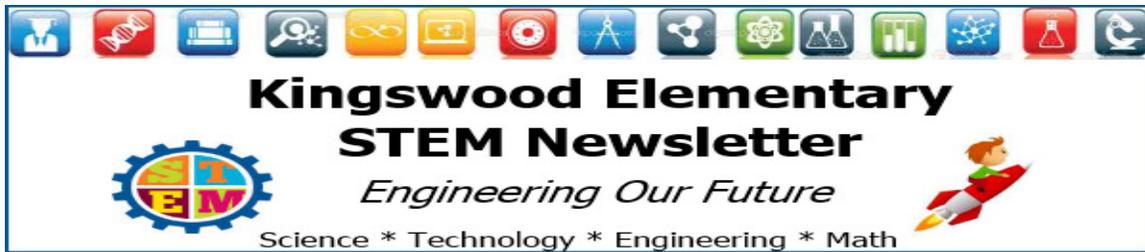
There are many fields within technology that your child may show interest in. He may want to use a computer program to design a car or airplane. She may want to use technology to improve a household item. They may want to utilize technology to track the location of the International Space Station.

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 build a car that flies, invent new safety equipment, develop a new communication device, or teach a new generation.

Upcoming STEM Event

November 14th from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria:
Mystery Science Night and Science Fair Viewing

Someone at Kingswood has been doing good deeds. Let your children visit Kingswood CSI stations to help us solve the mystery and thank this person.



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!

2nd Quarter STEM Challenge: Technology

Challenge begins: November 4th

Challenge ends: December 16th

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

Read: Read a book online at Big Universe or Tumble Book Library. Students will complete a small report. To access the online books, visit: <http://kesmediacenter1.weebly.com/reading-programs.html>

Discover: Choose one fun activity. Some activities include using a computer program to write a story, create art work, or design a car or house. You may try going one day without technology. Please check the STEM flyer for a complete list of activities.

Explore: Go on a family field trip. Students will have a variety of options to choose from. Some ideas include: scanning groceries at the self-check out station, exploring websites such as The Weather Channel, or using a telescope to see the moon. See the flyer for more options.

Using Technology to Your Advantage

Kids love technology. It can be a great incentive and fun way to learn. Here are some tips to maximize your child's learning opportunities.

- 1) **Set your computer password:** Your child may have to complete homework or chores before getting on the computer. Change the password to help your child learn new vocabulary.
- 2) **Encourage creation:** Technology is not just about entertainment. Let your child create by typing a story, making art work, or designing a house.
- 3) **Practice problem-solving:** If your child gets stuck on a level in a game, let him talk it out. What other ways or techniques could solve the problem?
- 4) **Make it tactile:** Kids learn more by doing it themselves. Let your child slide her finger across your tablet screen to move objects within a game.
- 5) **Ask questions:** If your child is watching the same video or playing the same game, ask what he is seeing or learning. If your child is pressing the wrong key, see if that is because it makes a funny noise. Feel free to pause videos to ask what characters are thinking, why characters did certain things, or what would you have done differently.
- 6) **Focus on play:** Let your child have fun with educational games instead of focusing on drilling skills such as completing math problems in a short amount of time.

Have a fun, family STEM adventure!