

# Ashurst Elementary School STEM Week Activities

April 30-May 4, 2012



## ***PreK Construction: Bits and Pieces of Student Conversations with One Another...***

**“Wood glue is stickier and keeps stuff on better.”**

**“You have to wash your hands off or the stuff will follow your hands.”**

**“It fell off, but I can get it back on.”**

**“I want that thing you have. May I have it, please?”**

**“I don’t want to do this any more. It’s too hard.”**

Ballie  
By H.H.

It is a tower. There will be a princess on top. She will step on the stairs to get to the top. She will want to go to the top. She will spin on the orange platform. The princess will spin golden threads from wheat. The princess can go to the other side of the tower. The pink ribbon is her bed.



## ***Student Reflections After Building and Decorating Their Structures...***

**“I know what balanced means. It means that the blocks won’t fall down, and you don’t have put them back up again.”**

**M.B.**

**“I am going to keep it in my room forever so I can look at it when I am in my bed.”**

**H.H.**

**“That thing kept falling off so I just hold it and counted to ten. It stayed there, because I was patient. When you are patient, things can work out pretty good.”**

**I.T.**



Second grade students researched erosion and weathering. In order to see the effects of erosion, the students built a hill for their experiment.



On the spring walk, students observed incidences of erosion. Each student selected an erosion problem and wrote possible solutions.

What will happen to the height of the mountain when it sits outside for a month exposed to nature? Students wrote their hypothesis on the day of constructing the mountain and will measure it over time.





Kindergarten students built boats in a unit called Float or Sink? They collected and recorded data during the STEM week activity.



All students tested boats that they built during STEM week and recorded their data.





Students in first grade studied the scientific process by planning, constructing, testing and collecting data on bubble making tools.



Students worked as a team to create a bubble-blowing tool out of recycled egg cartons and other materials.



A student created her bubble-blowing tool and tested it to see if it worked and what kind of bubbles it created.





First grade students engineered “balloon” cars and tested the cars’ distances.

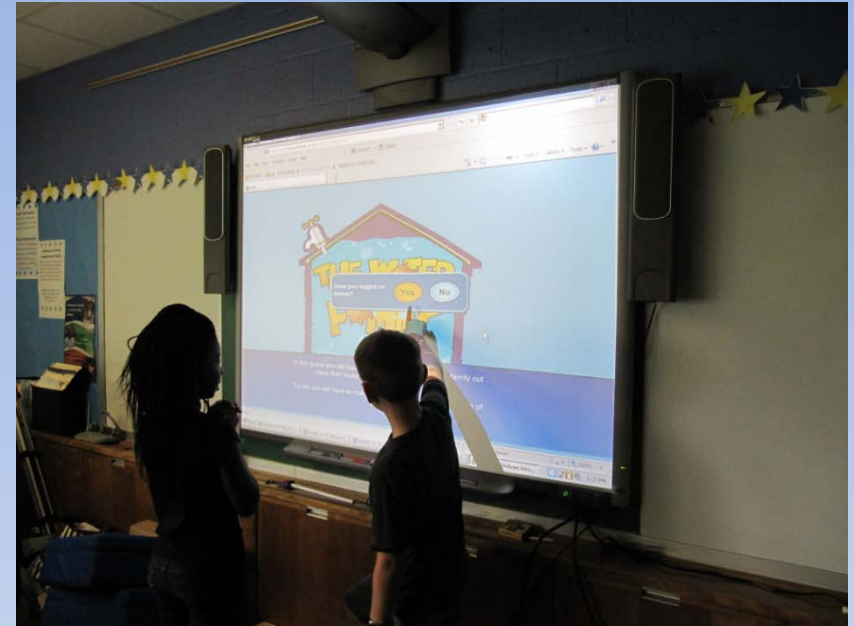




In a 60 minute session using LEGO® Robotics, third grade students constructed additions to robots with the object of moving opponents' robots out of a SUMO wrestling ring before their robot was moved out.





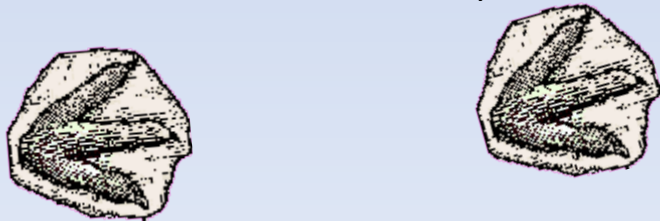


Third grade students explored water conservation websites in cooperative groups. For their STEM activity, students researched water education sites, surveyed their families on water usage and planned how to reduce their family's consumption. Students also pledged ways in which they would conserve water.

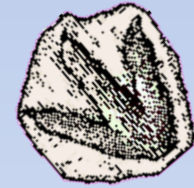




As part of DODEA's "STEAM" initiative, kindergarten art students studied the creation of fossils and the role that paleontologists play in excavating, carbon dating and reassembling skeletal remains. Students took turns participating in a virtual dinosaur dig created by the National Museum of Natural History.



Next, students created their own fossils by pressing plant leaves and dinosaur figurines into flattened clay slabs.



The fossil's were fired in the kiln then painted to give them an aged effect.

