



The Kennedy STEM Spotlight

April 4, 2016

Notable STEM Events

Science Olympiads Regional Tournament

Fifteen Kennedy Middle School students competed in the regional Science Olympiad competition on Saturday, March 12 at UNCC. This was our first year competing in the tournament. If you are not familiar with Science Olympiads, it is a science program in which students practice and prepare for different science-based events throughout the school year. Some events are testing sessions, some are hands-on labs, and some are building events. Our students competed in a variety of events such as Bottle Rocket, Bridge Building, Food Science, Fossils, Air Trajectory, Picture This, Invasive Species, and 14 others!

We are SUPER proud of our team! They worked very hard throughout the year to prepare for their events. Out of 35 middle school teams competing in each event, our team won 7 medals and the Spirit Award. This award is given to one middle school who shows respect, politeness, and overall great team spirit. Thank you to our awesome coaches who guided the students this year: Ms. Vibbert, Mr. and Mrs. Vergara, Ms. Weaver, Mr. Bass, Ms. Cyr, Mr. Kauffman, and Ms. Osborne.

Science Olympiad Medal Recipients:

Air Trajectory: Alex and Taina (8th place)

Crimebusters: Taina and Eint (8th place)

Dynamic Planet: Eve (7th place)

Food Science: Alex and Victor (6th place)

Fossils: Brayden and Jacob (5th place)

Picture This: Tien and Steven (4th place)

Scrambler: Taylor and Elijah (8th place)

BASF You Be the Chemist Chemistry Bowl

Two of our students, seventh graders Cameron Doan and Connor Scott Mcaliley, competed in the NC State BASF "You Be the Chemist" Chemistry Bowl on Saturday, March 19.

To prepare, these students studied from a 97 page packet that focused on chemistry topics ranging from 5th-8th grade. 7th grade science teacher, Ms. Harris, coached these students so they were ready for the big day!

There were some extremely challenging questions. We are so proud of the students and the hard work they went through to prepare. They studied a great deal and attended study sessions with Ms. Harris. In fact, we are excited to share that **Connor won 1st runner up for the NC State event!** Way to go Connor!



PASSPORT TO SCIENCE EXPLORATION:
THE CORE OF CHEMISTRY

Kennedy Students Have a Green Thumb!

Sixth and SAC/AU Outdoor Gardens

Thanks to Christ the King Church for setting up ten raised garden beds a few months ago, our **sixth grade science classes and our SAC/AU classes** recently planted vegetable seeds. Students are currently learning about the reproductive parts of a flower, photosynthesis, cellular respiration and will soon be learning about the carbon cycle. Students planted radishes, carrots, and broccoli. They are also tending the garden daily to make sure we have a successful product! The vegetables will be donated to a local organization, Urban Ministries. ***Thank you to the Rehrig, Chen, and Funderburk families for donating or lending us gardening tools!***

An Indoor Garden without Soil???

Eighth grade science teachers, **Mr. Wolfe and Ms. Robles**, are wrapping up their biotechnology unit. During this unit, students completed some fun tasks such as creating prosthetic arms and even starting a hydroponic garden! In their classrooms, you will find an indoor garden with some impressive vegetables and greens growing *without soil!* How does this work? Each class has a fish tank with goldfish being raised where they produce waste. The water with the waste from the tank flows to a hydroponic tray where plants, such as tomatoes and lettuce, are growing without soil. The waste is toxic to the fish, but very rich in nutrients for the plants. The plants therefore absorb the nutrients and are able to grow. The clean water is recycled back to the fish tank. Pretty cool!



STEM Camps

Driven Minds Coding Camp at Kennedy Middle School (July)

- Web Design
- App Design
- information will be shared soon!*

CPCC STEM Summer Experience

- variety of options
- More information: www.StemSummerExperience.com

Carolinas Aviation Museum:

- Youth and the Colorful Cosmos
- Future Flyers
- More information: carolinasaviation.org

Project Scientist (Girls in STEM)

- variety of camp options
- More information: <http://www.projectscientist.org/programs/charlotte>

Kennedy's STEM Habits of Thinking

We encourage our students to apply these habits of thinking in all of their classrooms.

These are also skills and habits that people from a variety of careers exhibit on a daily basis.

- Inquire**
- Collaborate**
- Investigate**
- Innovate**
- Design**
- Reflect**

Upcoming Events

- April 2: NC State Science and Engineering Fair
- April 4: 4th Quarter Begins
- April 12: STEM Night, 6:00-8:00
- April 11, 13, 14: 6th grade Schiele Museum Field Trip
- April 14-16: TSA State Competition
- April 22: Earth Day!
- April 27: 8th grade Blue Planet Water Environmental Center Field Trip



Photo Gallery

6th grade starting their garden



6th grade starting their garden



7th graders working with Simple Machines at Discovery Place



7th graders working with Simple Machines at Discovery Place



Photo Gallery



Elijah and Taylor at Science Olympiad tournament-bottle rocket



Elijah and Taylor at Science Olympiad tournament-bottle rocket



Jacob and Steven at Science Olympiad tournament-Mission Possible



Jacob and Steven at Science Olympiad tournament-Mission Possible

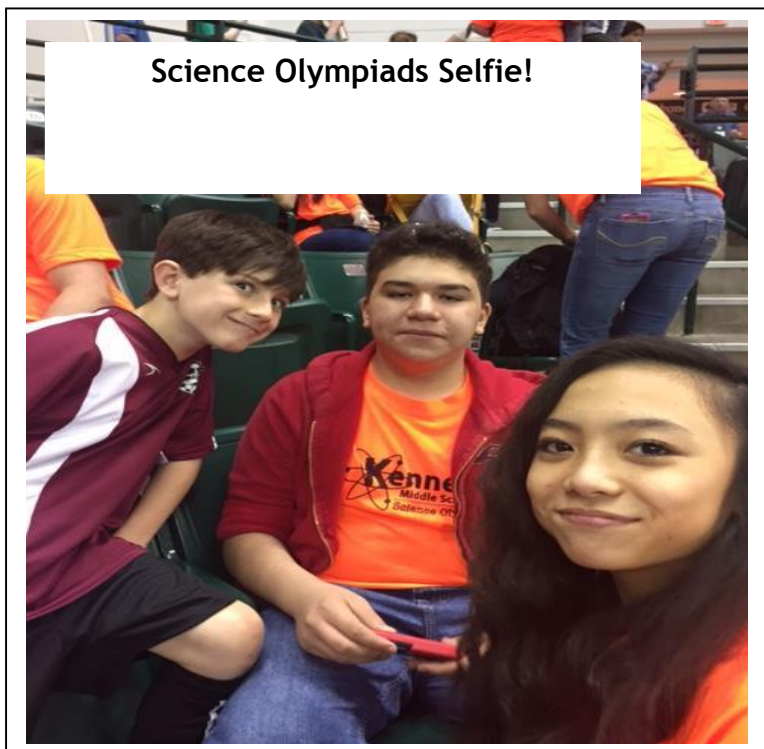
Photo Gallery



Alex and Taina at Science Olympiads tournament-Air Trajectory



Alex and Victor at Science Olympiads tournament-Food Science



Science Olympiads Selfie!

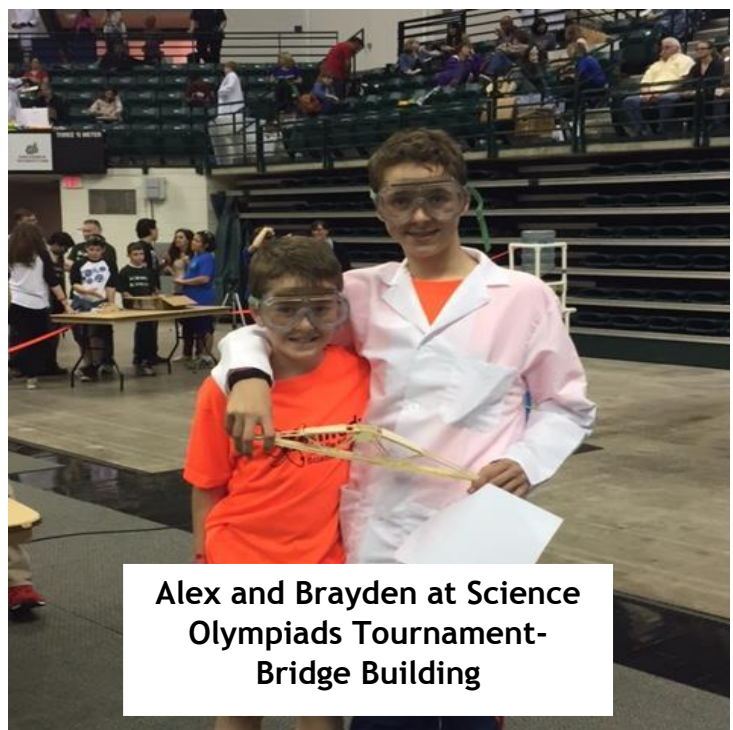


Vergara Family Science Olympiads Selfie!

Photo Gallery



Elijah and Taylor at Science Olympiads Tournament-Scrambler Car



Alex and Brayden at Science Olympiads Tournament-Bridge Building



Alex and Brayden at Science Olympiads Tournament-Bridge Building



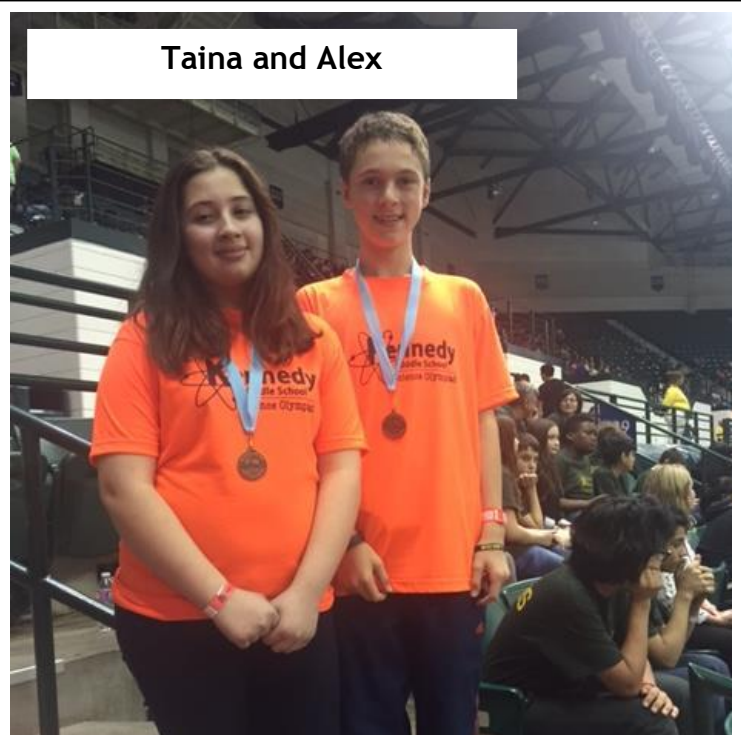
Taylor and Elijah at Science Olympiads Tournament-Scrambler Car

Photo Gallery

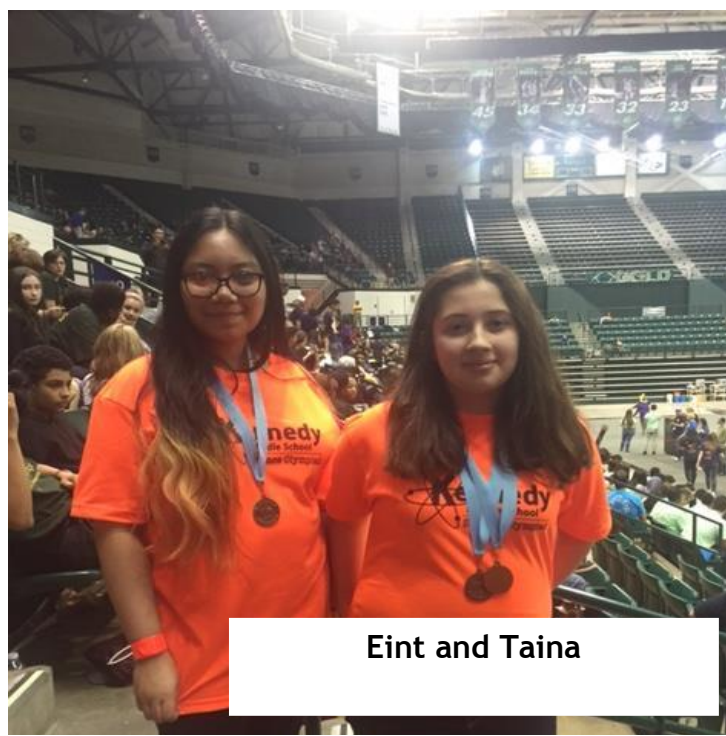
Group Shot!



Taina and Alex



Eint and Taina

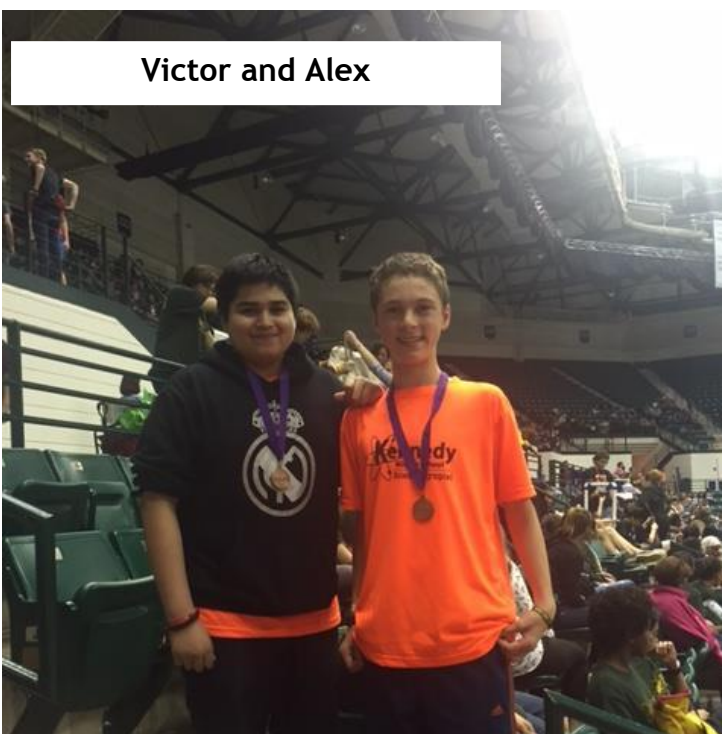


Eve



Photo Gallery

Victor and Alex



Brayden and Jacob



Tien and Steven



Taylor and Elijah



Photo Gallery

Group Photo (missing Bhuvani and Paula)

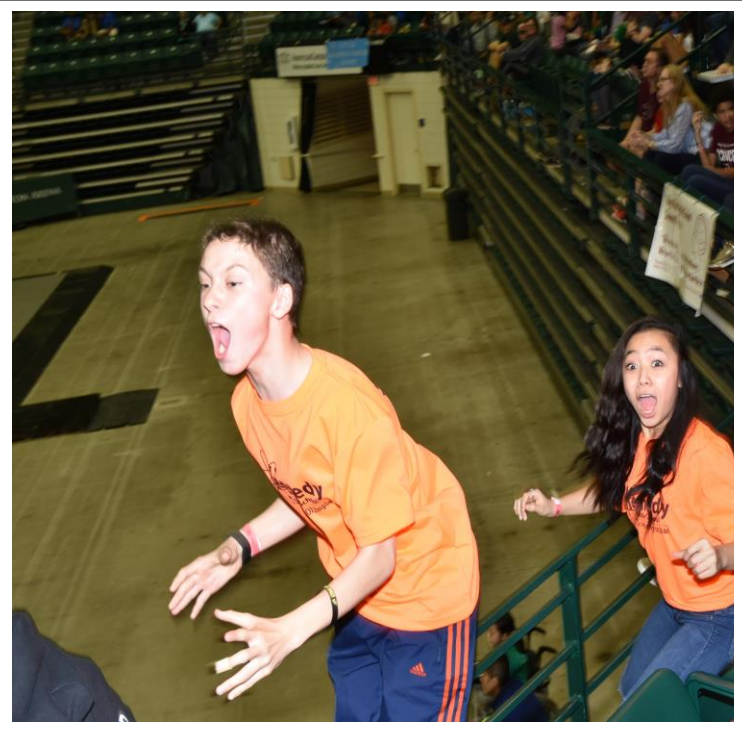
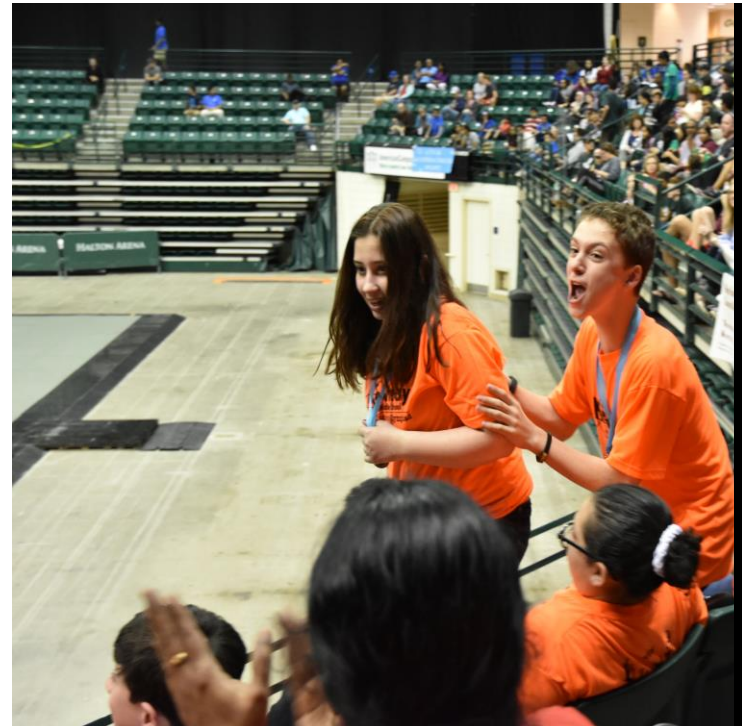


Photo Gallery

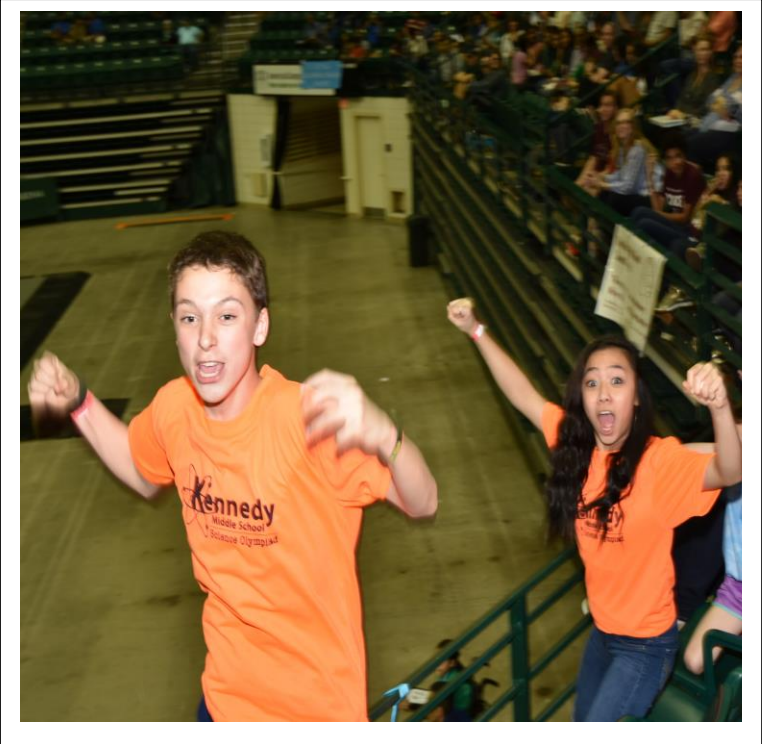


Photo Gallery

Connor at the BASF
Chemistry Bowl

