



The Kennedy STEM Spotlight

March 1, 2016

STEM Events

Wanted: Females in STEM!

Did you know that women who pursue STEM careers earn 33% more than if they chose a career in a non-STEM field (www.whitehouse.gov)? According to the US Department of Commerce, female employees fill less than 25% of STEM jobs and females make up almost half of the total workforce!

To motivate and inspire our 6th grade STEM girls at Kennedy, students from Olympic High School's ROTC made a visit on Wednesday, February 17. During their visit, the ROTC shared a presentation to dispel any myths about men being the best fit for STEM jobs. The presentation helped girls understand that it is okay to not want to play with dolls at a young age and rather play with cars, Legos, or computers. After the presentation, our girls completed an engineering activity by working in teams to build a battery-powered car.

Check out the pictures below!

Interested in your daughter, female friend or family member getting more involved with STEM? Check out this link and even register them for a summer camp here in Charlotte.

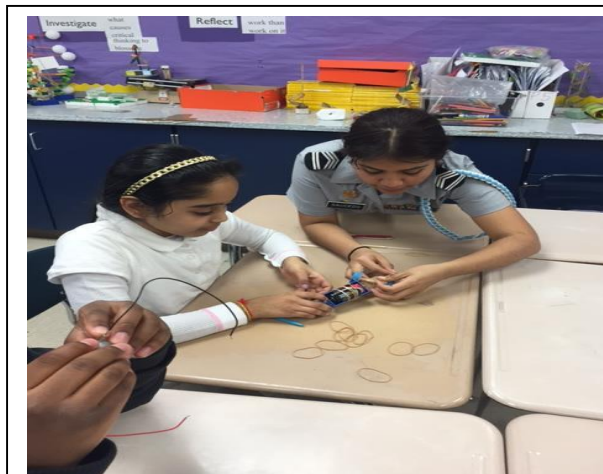
<http://www.projectscientist.org/programs/charlotte>

Two Students Heading to State Fair!

Congratulations to Jonathan and Alexander Rehrig for proceeding to the **Science and Engineering State Fair!**

Both boys participated in the regional fair on February 13. Jonathan won 1st place in the physics and math category and took home the United States Air Force Award. Alexander won 2nd place in the chemistry category.

Way to go boys! Good luck in April!



STEM Events (continued)

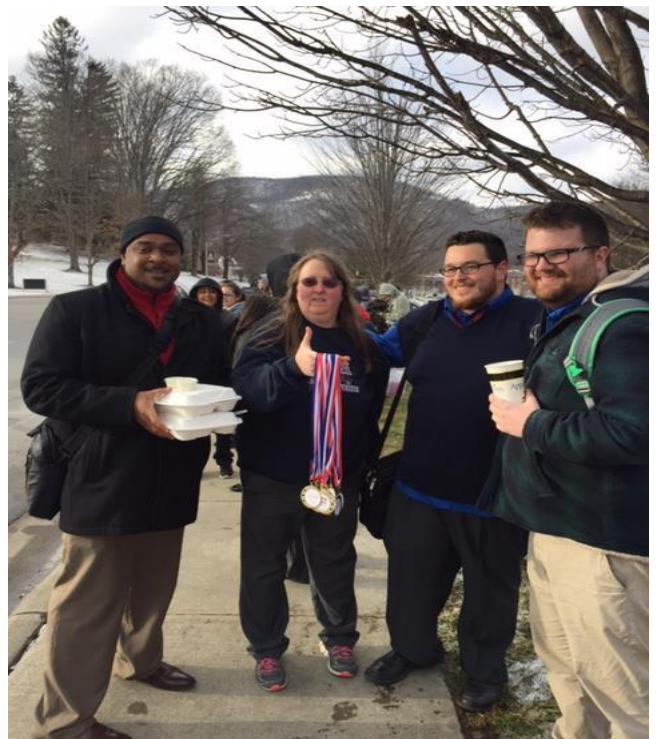
Students Win Big at TSA Regional Competition

On Friday, February 26, thirty-five TSA (Technology Student Association) members participated in a regional competition at Appalachian State University. Even though it was quite a long day with an early departure from Kennedy, it did not lack in fun, excitement, and a lot of success!

Students and team advisors met up at Kennedy at 5:30 am to begin loading the bus for their competition. Despite the early departure and a 2-hour bus ride, students were in high spirits. You could tell by their singing of the “Star Spangled Banner” and “Let It Go”. Once we arrived, we were met by snow, high winds, and a temperature below freezing. This still didn’t put a damper on our students’ attitudes.

Individual students and teams stopped by classrooms to drop off the products they have worked so hard on since the fall in order to be evaluated by judges. Such products were STEM Animation and Digital Photography, Bio-Technology, Mass Production, and Construction. Some individual students and teams went to give prepared speeches or demonstrate using a product they had created, such as a VEX robot or catapult.

Students did an amazing job. They took home TWELVE medals! Be sure to check out the pictures below to see who won a medal and for which event.

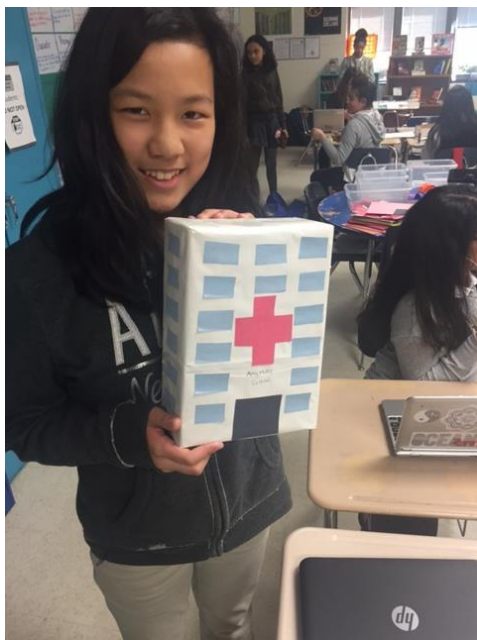


STEM in the Language Arts Classroom

Mr. Wood's sixth graders have been taking part in STEM activities while in their language arts classroom. He introduced the students to a project titled, *Our Town*. Students were to design and build a residential or commercial structure on a plot of land using items such as cardboard, toilet paper rolls, Popsicle sticks, duct tape, pipe cleaners, and other recyclable materials. Each student-made structure made up their classroom's town. After the construction process, students will be moving on to a creative writing piece based on their town.

In addition, Mr. Wood is going to soon introduce an environmental science project to his students. Students will investigate and research their choice of an endangered animal in a chosen continent. They will then write an essay identifying the key factors connected with the endangerment of their selected animal species, analyze human and/or environmental interactions, and propose a solution for this issue and how to preserve the species.

In **Ms. Beeman's eighth grade language arts class**, students are reading the book, *Harrison Bergeron*. In this science fiction novel, the government decides that all people should be created "equal". If anyone exhibits above average qualities, he or she get handicapped in some way so that everyone is "equal". Ms. Beeman's students were given the task to identify one strength they had and invent a handicap to cancel out this strength so that they were "equal". Students planned their handicap and then built it out of recyclable materials. Some students created devices to keep them from singing or reading.



STEM Field Trips!

Sixth graders visited the Duke Energy Explorium during the week of February 22. On this field trip, students watched an electricity presentation that explained what electricity is and how it is produced and transmitted. Students learned about the McGuire Nuclear Station and how electricity is generated by nuclear power plants. They also learned about radiation, uranium, how a nuclear power plant works, fission, careers in the nuclear industry and the benefits of nuclear energy. Students saw what uranium looks like, how a Geiger counter works and the dress requirements for nuclear workers. Students took a walk on a nature trail and got to see the energy exhibits.

Ms. Case and Ms. Aust's seventh grade classes are heading to Discovery Place on March 22. While there, students will perform hands-on demonstrations of the six simple machines (can you name them all?). They will also use their knowledge of mechanical advantage and simple machines to design and test a complex machine that will be used to solve a challenge. This trip connects with the seventh grade force and motion physical science standard.

On February 29, fifteen of **Ms. Myers's sixth through eighth grade girls** went on a field trip to the Charlotte Aviation Museum. While there, they took a tour of the airplane exhibits, learned about the physics behind the flight of a plane, used a flight simulator, and participated in an engineering challenge that involved power tools. They also met Beth who was a passenger on the well-known flight 1549. This was the flight that Captain Sully landed into the Hudson River on January 15, 2009 due to a flock of geese in the engine. She described her terrifying experience, but noted it did not stop her from flying again. In fact, she flew 80 more times that year! Our girls had a memorable trip!

Upcoming Events

March 1: Early Release Day (1:45)

March 2: Schiele Museum Field Trip forms come home

March 12: Science Olympiad Regional Tournament

March 22: 7th grade to Discovery Place

March 25-April 1: Spring Break!

SAVE THE DATE! Family STEM Night at Kennedy Middle School on April 12 from 6:00-8:00 pm

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

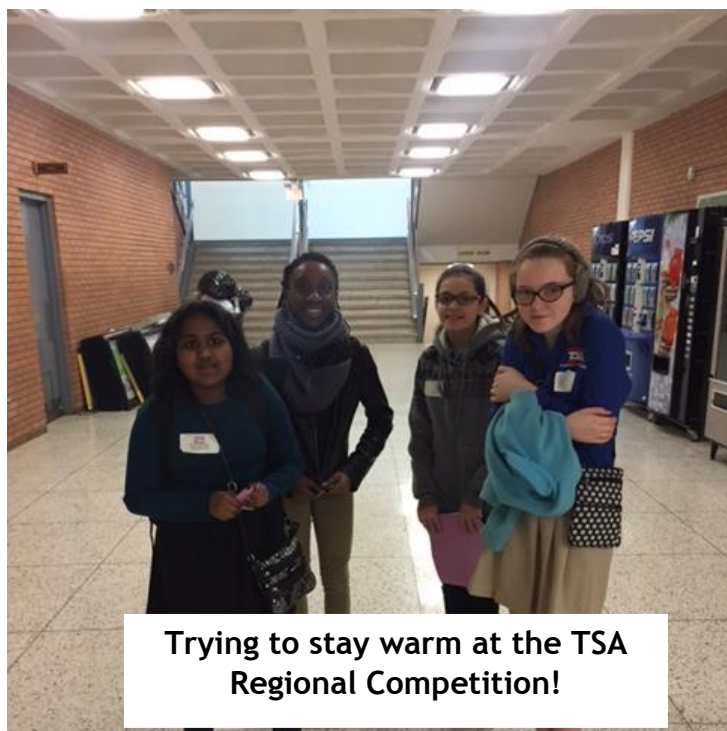
Innovate

Design

Reflect



Photo Gallery



Trying to stay warm at the TSA Regional Competition!



TSA: Cameron, Joey, & Jason-2nd place in Tech Bowl



TSA: Stephanie- 1st place for Career Prep

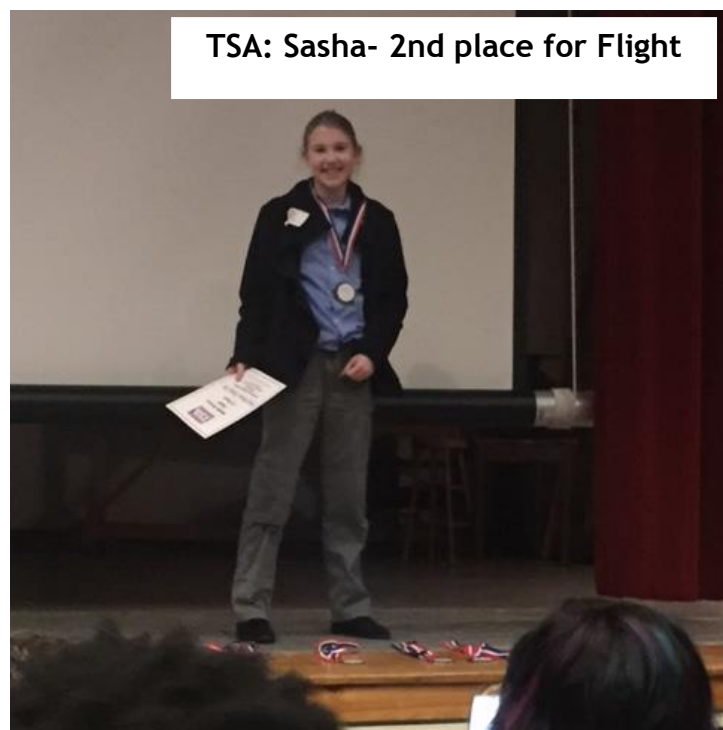


TSA: Ruby (Taina & Trinity)- 3rd place for Children's Stories

Photo Gallery



TSA: Sasha, Victor,
Mackenzie, & Tien- 1st place
for Construction Renovation



TSA: Sasha- 2nd place for Flight



TSA: Victor, Jacob, Aaron,
(&Taina)- 3rd place for Mass
Production



TSA: Jordan, Cameron, Rachelle,
(& Stephanie)- 2nd place for
Medical Technology Issues

Photo Gallery

TSA: Jordan- 2nd place for Prepared Speech



TSA: Rachelle- 1st place for Promotional Marketing



TSA: Angela, Mackenzie, Tien, Bhuvani, Eowyn, Sasha, & Emi- 1st place for STEM Animation

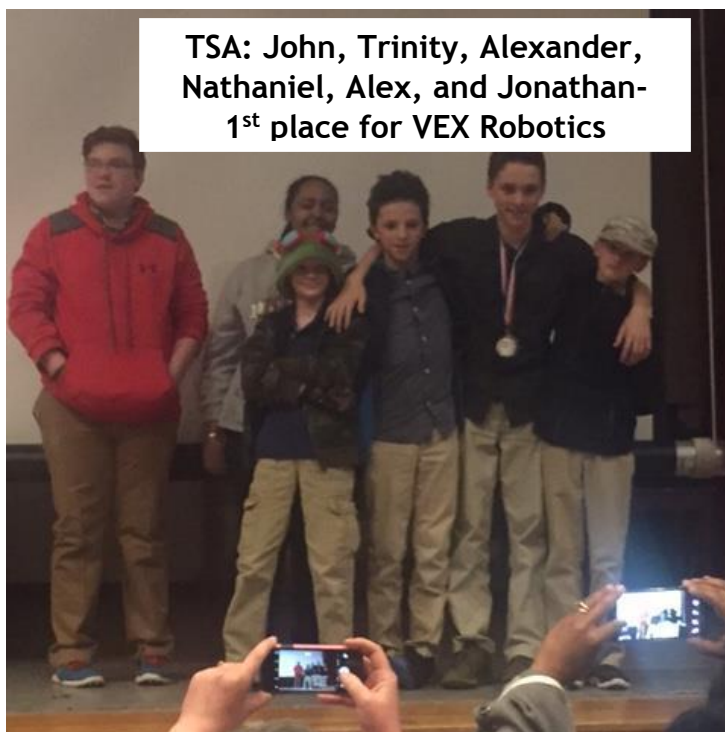


TSA: Jordan, Daniel, Jullian, Jason, Jacob, & Kevin- 3rd place for Video Game Design



Photo Gallery

**TSA: John, Trinity, Alexander, Nathaniel, Alex, and Jonathan-
1st place for VEX Robotics**



**A Few of Our Regional Fair
Participants**



**Regional Fair: Jonathan-1st place
in Physics and Math category**



**Regional Fair: Alexander-2nd
place in Chemistry category**

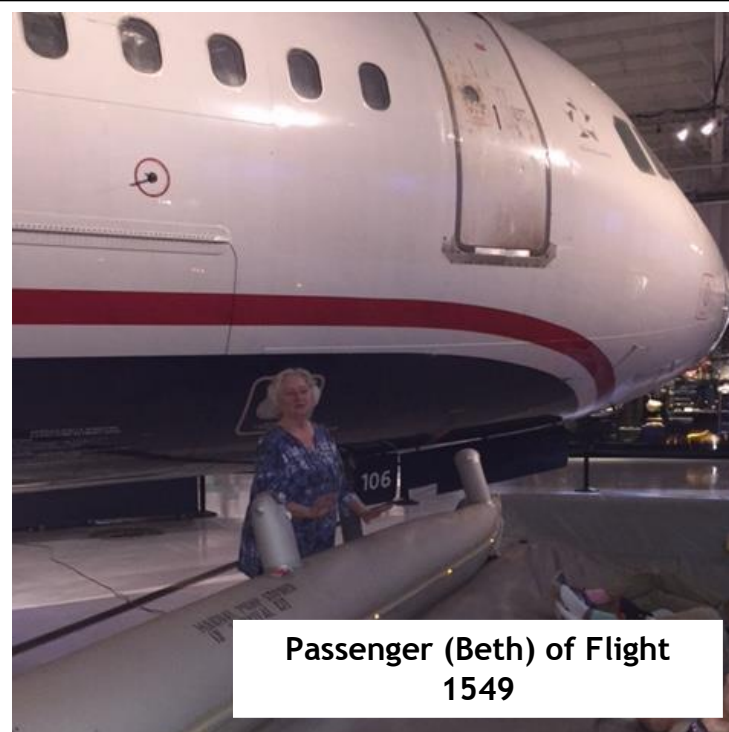


Photo Gallery

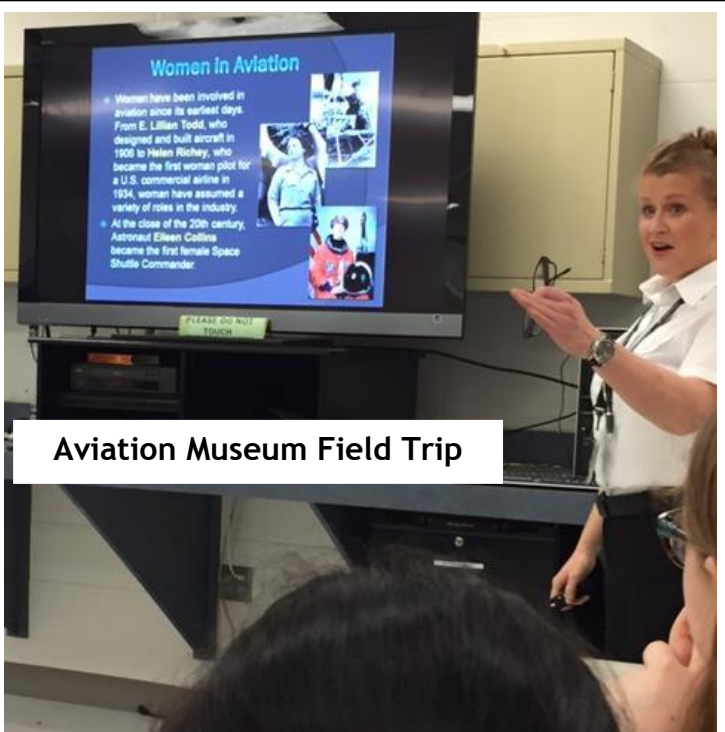
Aviation Museum Field Trip



Aviation Museum Field Trip



Passenger (Beth) of Flight
1549



Aviation Museum Field Trip

Photo Gallery

Aviation Museum Field Trip



Aviation Museum Field Trip



Aviation Museum Field Trip



Duke Energy Field Trip



Photo Gallery

Duke Energy Field Trip



Designing Furniture in Ms. Myers's Class



Designing Furniture in Ms. Myers's Class



Designing Furniture in Ms. Myers's Class



Photo Gallery

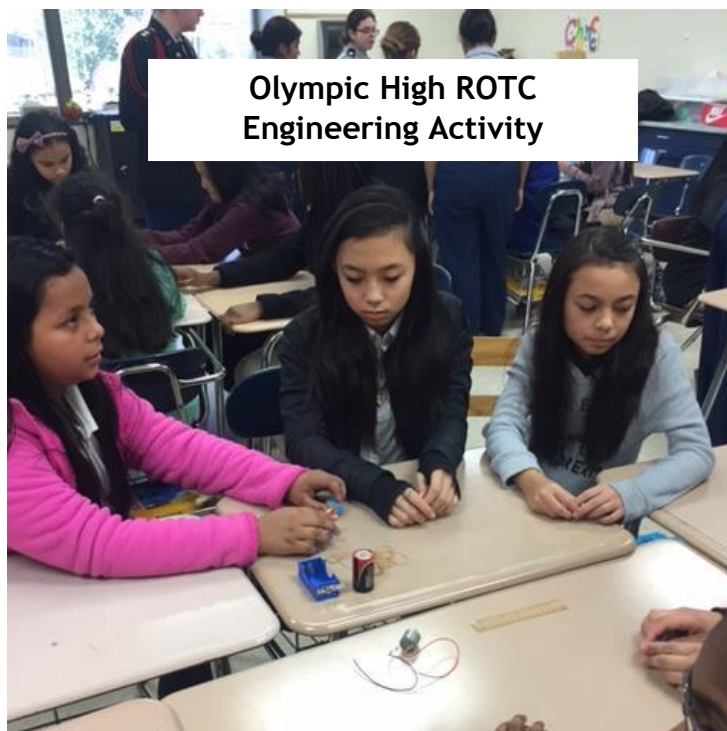
**Designing Furniture in Ms.
Myers's Class**



**Olympic High ROTC
Engineering Activity**



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**Olympic High ROTC
Engineering Activity**

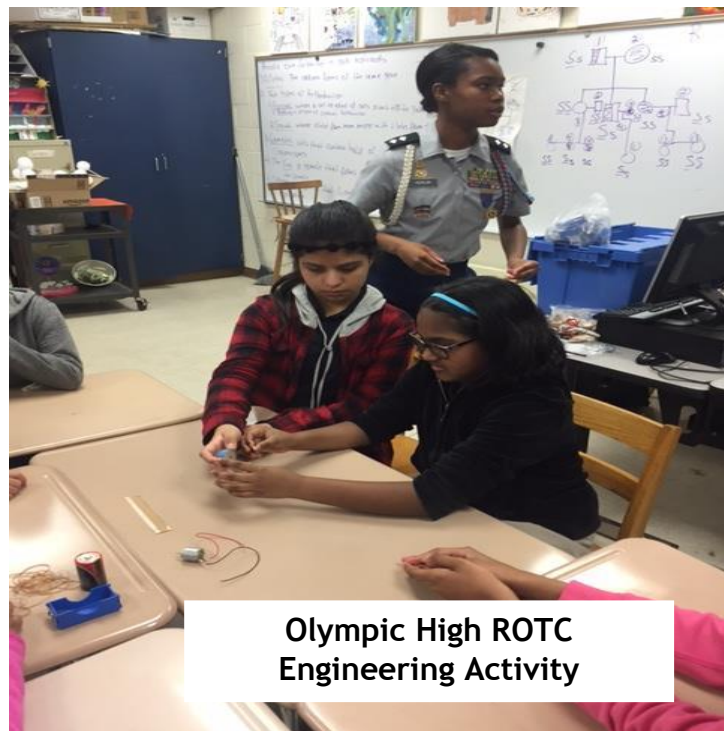


Photo Gallery

**Olympic High ROTC
Engineering Activity**



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