

MCAS STEM Initiatives A Year in Review













Math camp offered to middle schooler

By Jessica O'Brion Staff Writer

> MICHIGAN CITY -More than 75 Michigan City middle school stuheld at Michigan City as well as keeping their High School. The sixth, seventh and eighth grade students are participat- is called Australian 100. ing in ten day sessions, During this game, the attending from 7:15 a.m. until poon.

Seven area teachers are participating in this middle school students' ger Middle School, Adam Goebel and Amy Wojasinski-Labis from Elston School and Mike Maeach have been incorporated CARE curriculum and the from Knapp Elementary School.

Michigan City Area Schools, in a partnership with Purdue University North Central, has received a CARE grant to be used for math education. CARE (Conceptual Algebra Readiness for Everyone) focuses on algebra readiness, preparing students for future math classes and skills.

"The basis of the partnership is the understanding that we must begin at elementary and middle school to make sure students have a strong foundation and are ready to succeed in algebra in high school," said Betsy Kohn, MCAS Director of Communications.

During the summer sessions, students rotate into six different classrooms throughout the day, focusing on six different topics which are geometry, computation, problem solving, number sense, measurements and algebra.

Maeach, who is a fifth grade teacher at Knapp, teaches at the math camp over the summer, but has taught CARE in his classroom with success in the past. "We piloted it in my classroom three or four years ago so I'm really familiar with it," he said. "If

you look at Knapp's test into the measurements best way to teach it. scores, they've really gone off the charts. We've seen exponential growth."

Part of the CARE program includes the incordents are taking part in a poration of games into the Math Camp through the curriculum to help stusummer school program dents understand math, interest.

One game, for example, teacher will roll a die ten times. With each roll the students have the option to add the number or the program to help boost the number multiplied by fen to their total score. For exmath grades. These teach- ample, if the teacher rolled ers are Paula Day, Linda a seven, the student could Swenberg and Brenda use seven or 70. After ten Christenson from Krue- rolls, the student closest to 100 without going over wins.

Middle School, Amy Har- at Elston Middle School, workshop setting, making mon from Barker Middle has several activities that sure they understand the

portion of the math camp. This includes a rubber readiness is class discu band cannon, which shoots sion. We focus on the so. rubber bands at different tion process rather th angles. His students also the answer," Feikes sa fold paper airplanes to "Most teachers want throw, measuring the dis- answer, I want to know tance they travel.

He has seen the math camp help his students and CARE works for three re believes it is partially due to keeping the students dedicated teachers. "You focused on math over the got great teachers her summer vacation.

dents he taught last sum- istrative staff. "I think I mer, Goebel said, "I did no- Barbara Eason-Watki tice their actual scores did and Dr. Jan Radford ha go up. Probably because been very supportive." they didn't take the entire three months off."

fessor of math education been doing great thir at PNC is involved with ing," Feikes said. the CARE partnership, Goebel, a science teacher working with teachers in a

. "The key for algeb how you got it."

Feikes said he believ sons, the first of which he said. The second re Referring to the stu-son, he said, is the adm:

The other reason CARE's success is the st Dr. David Feikes, a pro-dents: "These kids ha

Lake Hils selected 57/27/9 selected 57/27/9 school

Staff Reports

MICHIGAN CITY.— Lake Hills STEM Magnet Elementary School has been selected by Project Lead The Way to pilot the newest science, technology, engineering and mathematics program for students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Lake Hills is one of 44 schools in the United States to be selected as a pilot school. By offering this new elementary STEM program to its students, Lake Hills is expanding its high-quality educational offerings for its students.

According to Shelley Deutscher, STEM coordinator for Lake Hills school, the new curriculum will be an extension of the current curriculum at the school. "The hope is that this will be a way for the hids to transition from elementary to middle school," she said.

Deutscher was designated as the master teacher for the elementary pilot. She will help lead professional development for the teachers at Lake Hills who are involved in the pilot.

The 44 schools invited to participate in the pilot program will test 12 STEM modules and play an integral role in the development of the final version of the curriculum by providing feedback on their experiences to Project Lead The Way.

This feedback will influence the development of engaging curriculum and balanced assessment for elementary students, and the creation of effective professional development for instructors. The final version of the elementary program will be available to all school districts in the U.S. for the 2014-2015 school year.

STEIVI the gateway to a student's future

Michigan City Barker School STEM Middle Academy

Michigan City's Barker Middle School is completing its first year as a STEM Academy, with all 6th, 7th and 8th graders taking a semester- Great long class called Project Gray Lead the Way (PLTW) - GATEWAY. The PLTW curriculum is founded in the fundamental problem- students of today - must "green energy" ideas in man-built world and how solving and critical-think- develop the critical-reason- an "Energy and Environ- science and math are coning skills taught in tradi- ing and problem-solving ment" unit. The 8th grad- nected to the technological tional career and technical skills that will help make ers worked to understand world we live in. At Michieducation (CTE), and it them the most productive the principles of mecha- gan City High School, all integrates national aca- in the world. demic and technical learning standards and STEM grams like the one offered and Robotics". They also their STEM studies with principles, creating what at Barker engage students were introduced to energy-more Project Lead the Way tion Arne Duncan calls one problem-based learning processes in the "Green provide students with an of the "great models of the through hands-on class- Architecture" unit. new CTE succeeding all room experiences. Stufor 21st century career math and science. and technical education." their students.

ogy, Engineering, Math) students were required to investigating the natural them.



Gateway Teacher

education is use Binary Code to iden-world.) To incorporate this attheheart of tify their projects. Dur- type of thinking, all stutoday's high- ing a unit on "Flight and dents designed solutions high- Space" they grasped the to problems in the "Deglobal principles of aerodynam- sign and Modeling" unit e conomy, ics and orbital mechanics, with the help of precision For America The 7th graders competed measurement tools and remain to design the best simple 3D Parametric Modeling economically machines in the "Science software. competitive, of Technology" unit. They As our students move to our next genalso built and tested wind Michigan City High School, of generators and studied they will have experienced leaders - the solar energy and other a great deal about our hu-PLTW GATEWAY pro- in the unit "Automation opportunity to continue" U.S. Secretary of Educa- in activities, projects, and saving structural design courses. These courses will

across the country." PLTW dents create, design, build, NASA Monday and Engi- high school students credwas recently cited by the discover, collaborate and neering Disaster Friday, its at many colleges and Harvard Graduate School solve problems while ap- Barker students learned universities around the of Education as a "model plying what they learn in to plan and think like en- country. gineers and technicians All 6th graders discov- by using the Design Pro- at Barker STEM Academy More than 4,200 schools in ered how digital electron-cess to solve problems, are excited and involved in all 50 states and the Discics has become a powerful (The Design Process is to delivering unique content trict of Columbia are now force in our world during engineers and technicians to students, and we look offering PLTW courses to the "Magic of Electrons" working in the human-forward to watching them unit. Signing their name built world as the Scien- grow in their understand-STEM (Science, Technol- took on a new look when tific Method is to scientists ing of the world around

nisms and programming students will have the opportunity to earn dual Every week, between credits, which gives our

The Gateway teachers



News > Local

Saying thanks: Lake Hills students and staff honor school volunteers

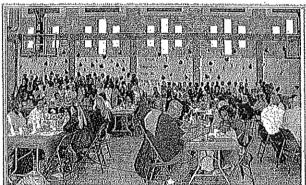
Print Page

By Jessica O'Brien Staff Writer

Published: Tuesday, June 4, 2013 5:05 PM CDT

MICHIGAN CITY — Lake Hills STEM Magnet Elementary School hosted its annual STEM Supporter Luncheon Monday afternoon. Parents, grandparents and community members who have volunteered over the past school year were invited to the school for the event.

According to Shelley Deutscher, STEM coordinator for Lake Hills, this luncheon is held at the end of every year for the school to say "thank you for all of your time and support and we hope we can count on you next year."



Students from kindergarten and third grade classes perform for volunteers during the Lake Hills STEM Supporter Luncheon, Photo by Jessica O'Brien

The luncheon was decorated with several items made by Lake Hills students. For example, thank you cards, made by third- and fifth-grade students, were set at each place setting. As a gift, the volunteers took home flower pots that were decorated by second-grade students.

While lunch was provided by the school, the desserts were contributed by staff members.

"Everybody is a part of what we're doing," Deutscher said.

Three Lake Hills kindergarten classes performed "Wheels on the Bus" during the luncheon. According to Deutscher, this was dedicated to the bus drivers for "taking us so many places in the community."

Third-grade students, who recently studied rocks and minerals, also performed at the luncheon, singing two songs from their play "Rock Concert."

Several people who attended the luncheon were volunteers for the STEM after-school program. These volunteers include Purdue University North Central students and staff, Michigan City High School Honor Society members, parents and grandparents.

During the luncheon, each volunteer was asked to introduce themselves and state how they contributed to the school. Several of the guests were parents, grandparents and retired teachers who have volunteered in various ways throughout the year.



Students from kindergarten and third-grade classes perform for volunteers during the Lake Hills STEM Supporter a control of some relative of the compatibility of the office of book best to the control of the Luncheon.

By Jessica O'Brien Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY - Lake Hills STEM Magnet Elementary School hosted its annual STEM Supporter Luncheon Monday afternoon. Parents, grandparents and community members who have volunteered over the past dedicated to the bus drivers for Michigan City Fire Department school year were invited to the "taking us so many places in the Public Information Officer Mark school for the event.

for Lake Hills, this luncheon is erals, also performed at the luntion District and members of the held at the end of every year for cheon, singing two songs from Pottawatomi Audubon Society. the school to say "thank you for their play "Rock Concert." Alicia Ebaugh from the La all of your time and support and Several people who attended Porte County Solid Waste Diswe hope we can count on you the luncheon were volunteers trict was also in attendance. She next year."

a gift, the volunteers took home by second-grade students.

the school, the desserts were Several of the guests were parcontributed by staff members.

we're doing," Deutscher said.

Three Lake Hills kindergar, year According to Deutscher, this was tendent Barbara Eason-Watkins, you."

Lake Hills students, staff honor school volunteers

"I can tell you the community has really stepped forward to make sure this school is a success. On behalf of the district. I want to say thank you."

Barbara Eason-Watkins, MCAS superintendent

The luncheon was decorated gram. These volunteers include program to teach students to with several items made by Purdue University North Cen- (reduce) reuse, recycle." Lake Hills students. For examtral students and staff, Michi-Addressing the volunteers ple, thank you cards, made by gan City High School Honor who attended the luncheon,

While lunch was provided by they contributed to the school, and I thank you." ents, grandparents and retired the group of volunteers. "Everybody is a part of what teachers who have volunteered "I can tell you the community

community." Baker, volunteers from Indiana According to Shelley Third-grade students, who Farm Bureau, the Michigan Deutscher, STEM coordinator recently studied rocks and min-City Area Schools Transporta-

for the STEM after-school pro-volunteered at the after-school

third- and fifth-grade students, Society members, parents and Lake Hills Principal Connie were set at each place setting. As grandparents.

Bachmann said, "You represent a gift, the volunteers took home During the luncheon, each only about a third or a quarter flower pots that were decorated volunteer was asked to intro- of all the volunteers who have duce themselves and state how made Lake Hills what it is today

Eason-Watkins also thanked

in various ways throughout the has really stepped forward to make sure this school is a sucten classes performed "Wheels Other individuals in atten- cess," she said. "On behalf of on the Bus" during the luncheon. dance included MCAS Superin- the district, I want to say thank

By Jessica O'Brien Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY -Students and staff of Lake Hills STEM Magnet Elementary School spent Friday morning constructing a Trail of Knowledge around the school building. With the help of 135 students from Barker Middle School, parent volunteers and several local organizathe school grounds.

The path also includes den for kindergartners.

ownership in their own standards alive." school," said Connie Bachrecreationally."

Ten mosaic tiles created flies and plants and will be cleaned the parking lot. placed in learning stations and the butterfly garden.

involvement Barker students on the "We thought this would be Hills. a great way to develop that nator for Lake Hills.

"We're so close to Lake Audubon Society. Michigan. We want stu-



Photo by Jessica O'Brien

tions, Lake Hills students First-grade students from Lake Hills STEW Magnet Elementary formed the path around School plant a garden for the school's Trail of Knowledge. Pictured (from left) at Tatiyana Neal, Kierra Newson and Austin Hunsche.

learning stations such as they can do their part dergartner Elijah Vance, a fossil station for third- to protect it," Deutscher brought along the younggraders and a sensory gar- said. "The more we can do est volunteer of day, her hands-on will make them 4-year-old son, Justin, who "It's about giving kids remember and bring those helped held pull weeds.

mann, Lake Hills princi- students were divided into up weeds, cleaning up the pal. "Our goal is always to groups, each working on a area and making it look give our students skills to section of the trail. Several nice," Vance said. "Twe been grow up and be responsi- students planted flowers really impressed. ble citizens, learning skills in front of the school, while school is really great." they can use career-wise or another group spread wood chips along the path.

by Safe Harbor students redo a stump learning cen- Colin McConnell. "My son the Lubeznik ter, a setting that consists is really into planting and Center for the Arts were of a circle of tree stumps, nature,"McConnell-Ortega presented to the school which will be used as an said. "We have a vegetable and will be placed along outdoor classroom. Groups garden at home so this is the trail. The tiles are dec- also worked on the remov- our bonding thing." orated with birds, butter- al of invasive species and

such as wetlands, wood- dents worked on was a veg- community groups includlands, gardens, prairies etable garden. Tomatoes, ing Vincini Farms, Burek green beans and strawber- Farms, Sevich Gardens, of ries were planted.

project is based on a part- the school will take turns Tomatoes, Mark's Family between Lake tending to the gardens," Hills and Barker, which said Dena Roths, a firstare both STEM schools, grade teacher at Lake Gloves.

partnership," said Shelley teered their time to help donations received by the Deutscher, STEM coordi- construct the trail, as well school. "We don't have a lot as a volunteer from the of extra funds for STEM,

dents to understand that parent of Lake Hills kin- together."

"I came out today to help During the planting day, any way I could, pulling

Angela McConnell-Ortega also volunteered to help Students also worked to on the project with her son,

Flowers, vegetables and other supplies were donat-Another project the stu- ed to the project by local Perennials Galore, Hostas "Hopefully everyone in and More, Richey Organic Market, Beachside Landscaping and Burnham

Bachmann was grateful Dozens of parents volun- for the volunteers and the she said. "It's important Volunteer Jamila Vance, that the community comes

6/2/13 ND



Photos by Kelley Smith

Kids enjoyed shooting rubber ducks off a log with squirt guns as part of a water festival at Krueger Middle School.

Krueger hosts Water Festival at school

By Helley Suddi Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY

— To kick off Coastal
Awareness Month,
Krueger Middle School
welcomed the community to participate in
a water festival they
hosted on the school's
front lawn Saturday.

Krueger staff, students and parent volunteers manned booths featuring water games, like bouncing ping pong balls into fish bowls and using squirt guns to shoot rubber ducks off a log. They also operated a dunk tank and distributed free concessions of hot dogs,



Please see V/ATER, A3 Two girls explore the water cycle and make bracelets out of pipe cleaners and beads as they go.

WATER

chips, drinks and snow- vide fishing lessons. cones.

teacher Amanda May-learning about water croft operated educa- quality testing, invational activities teaching sive species, the canoe participants about the and kayak demonstrawater cycle and how land tions, and student-guiddevelopment can lead to ed tours of the school's pollution.

the Michigan City Fire garden and rain barrel Department and U.S. projects.

Coast Guard demonstrated water rescue CONTINUED from Page A1 techniques, and Bass Pro Shop was on hand to pro-

Guests at the water Environmental science festival also enjoyed bird path and forest Representatives from management area, rain

By Brian Schlender Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY -Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz toured Lake Hills STEM Magnet Elementary School on Thursday.

Fifth-grade students Omar Serrano, Marcus Blackmon, Hudah Achy Ritz around the school.

fourth-grade the independent projects forms.

STEM plained that each quarter "community approach." munities. students do projects re- The goal of the commu- Ritz plans to imple-This quarter the fourth- equity, Ritz said. land forms.

that she goes out a cou- schools need help with. high quality look like."



Photos by Brian Schlender

and Nyla Asad showed Omar Serrano, Marcus Blackmon, Hudah Achy and Nyla Asad showed Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz around Ritz paused in the Lake Hills Elementary. Superintendent of Public Instruction Glencommon da Ritz looks at four-grader independent projects at Lake Hills area to ask students about STEM Magnet Elementary School.

wind and water affect coordinators in each com- information about their After the tour, Ritz said assess the areas their to know what "equity and

on display. All the projects ple times a week to talk Once the areas are idenwere on erosion and land to school officials, may-tified, continued Ritz, ors and community lead- the coordinators will be coordinator ers around Indiana. The shown how to identify Shelly Deutscher ex-tours are part of Ritz's resources in their com-

lated to what they study. nity approach is to create ment a technology system to help coordinators graders studied how Ritz wants to identify find resources and update munity who can then schools. She wants schools



CETS A TOUR

By Brian Schlender Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz toured Lake Hills STEM Elementary Magnet School on Thursday

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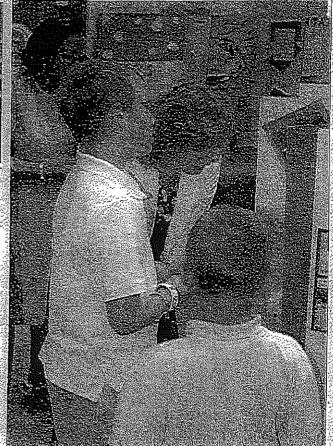


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Society selects two Innovators of the Wonth

Duo show new ways to solve problems

TIMES STAFF

As part of its effort to highlight its 2012-13 class, the Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana has selected Anthony Thurman and Connie Bachmann as its March Innovators of the Month.

Anthony Thurman, an animated filmmaker from Gary, is the first Ivy Tech alumni to be inducted into The Society of Innovators. The founder of Alt Key Productions launched an award-wining animated series of short films that have won local, national and international acclaim.

Drawing from his own experience with depression, these films describe the challenges of a fictional police officer named "Detective Downs," He has produced two in this series, including his latest film, "The Depression of Detective Downs 2: On Depression's Edge." It won accolades at the Scottish Mental Health Arts & Film Festival in Glasgow, Scotland. Last October, it was selected for screening and competition at the Marbella International Film Festival in Spain.

Northwest's Gary Campus parttime in the computer lab. Now starting his third "Detective Downs" film, he said producing these films helps others deal with depression because "Detective Downs" manages his

caseload and life's challenges despite his disability.

When U.S. Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan visited Lake Hills STEM Magnet School, he encouraged educators to develop a rigorous STEM curriculum. His emphasis in 2011: Help students at the first STEM public elementary school in Northwest Indiana and the first non-charter magnet public school in Indiana become future problem solvers and innovators.

"Since we became a STEM Thurman works at Ivy Tech school, ISTEP+ scores have dramatically improved," said Lake Hills Principal Connie Bachmann, "Students demonstrating proficiency on science rose from 61 to77 percent."



THURMAN



BACHMANN

See INNOVATORS, Page F8

THE TIMES

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Innovators

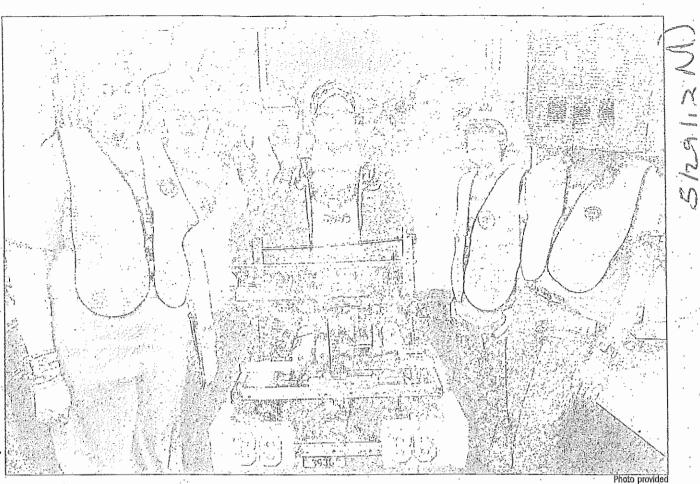
model on spreading science, technology, engineering and math across the curriculum.

themes that influence education among

reduced lunch. These are life sciences; physical science; engineering and technology; and space and earth.

The society is part of the Gerald 1. Today, this Michigan City school is a Lamkin Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center of Ivy Tech Community College Northwest.

For more information, call O'Merrial . Throughout the year, there are four Butchee, director of the Lamkin Center at (219) 981-4942, or John Davies, assisthe 430 students, 85 percent on free and tant director, at (219) 981-1111, ext. 2292.



The Michigan City Robotics team placed seventh in the inaugural IndianaFIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Championship in Indianapolis.

tics team places 7th in

By Jessica O'Brien Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY - The Michigan City Robotics team ances allowed the teams to was one of 54 teams chosen to participate in the ianaugural IndianaFIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of to Safe Harbor and Michigan best defensive robot, but de-really well," Higgin said. "I'm Science and Technology) Robotics Championship May 18 in Indianapolis.

matched with a team from points by throwing discs Indianapolis and a team from through hoops.

Munster, forming an alliance eight at the championship.

The purpose of the alliplay three against three on the court in an elimination this particular tournament," tween Jan. 5 and Feb. 23. "It style tournament, according Higgin said. "We were the was a great year. The kids did City Robotics Coordinator fense doesn't win robotics really proud of the team. Herb Higgin.

The competition between

how high each robot could as home schooled students. climb.

championships."

Michigan City High School, Harbor at (219) 873-8740.

The robots were also re- Marquette High School, La that placed seventh out of quired to climb a pyramid, Lumiere School, and Victory receiving points based on the Christian Academy as well

The students built the ro-"It's all about scoring for bot, Firehawk version 2.0 be-

More information on how The Michigan City Robot- to become involved with the Michigan City Robotics was robots allowed them to score ics team consisted of 12 high Michigan City Robotics team school students, coming from is available by calling Safe

Arteger forest path now open to public

By Jossica O'Erion Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY Krueger Middle School held a ribbon cutting ceremony Friday afternoon to officially open its new forest management path, which is open to the public. This ceremony marked the completion of the second phase of Krueger's ongoing Outdoor Environmental Science Center.

This mile-long path was created by students and local professionals. Krueger Principal Martha Birkholz opened the ceremony by acknowledging and thanking those partners who made the project possible, including the Michigan City Forestry Department, Lowe's, Don's Construction and the Michigan City Area Schools Plant Planning Department.

"Our staff and students have worked tirelessly with eight learning stations these partners to develop along the path. These stathis second trail on our tions were forest uses, property," Birkholz said. small woodland creatures, "The students are learning flood plain overlook, upabout science, teamwork, land soil pit, tree bark public speaking and much identification, canopy gaps, more through their hands-. what makes a tree a tree, on work on the project. We and tree leaves identificaare thrilled to be able to tion. offer this resource for area elementary students and learned from creating the for our community."

cutting ceremony, students provided information at



Partners who took part in the creation of the new forest management bath at Krueger Middle school (from left) John Yeakey, MCAS plant planning; Frank Seitheimer, Michigan City forester; Martha Birkholz, Krueger principal; Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins, MCAS superintendent; Vera Jones, Krueger assistant principal; Don Snapp, MCAS bus driver/Don's Construction; Beth Pishkur, MCAS board of school trustees; Joshua Bennett, MCAS bus driver/Don's Construction; Walter Corlett, Don's Construction; and Doug Schroeder, MCAS plant planning.

The students not only paths, but the outdoor Following the ribbon setting is also used as a

Please see KRUEGER, A3



ivy Tech Community College Vice Chancellor Rick Soria (center) participates with Krueger Middle School students at a learning station during the opening of Krueger's new Forest Management Path. Photo provided

KRUEGER

CONTINUED from Page A1

classroom, "If it's 35 degrees or warmer, we go outside," said environmental technology and lightning are the only

The path features a pavilion which, according to Schroll, can be used as a classroom by all of the teachers at Krueger. "If a math teacher wants to do a math lesson, they can bring their class and some clipboards path and the bird habitat trail. out and have class out here."

"This is great. I'm very impressed," said former Kruger hosting a water festival from Principal Kirk Rogers. "I was principal here for 20 years and I never knew this was back trails. Exhibits on water rehere. They've opened up a big lated topics such as fishing, coarea and it was well thought noeing, and kayaking also will out."

Assistant Principal Jones gave an update on the six phases in the creation of Krueger's Outdoor Environmental Science Center. The first phase was a bird trail and habita and the second phase, which was the forest management area and trail creek access, are both complete.

The next phase, a prairie grass area with an outdoor education center, is currently in the works. Students will begin planting in the next few weeks.

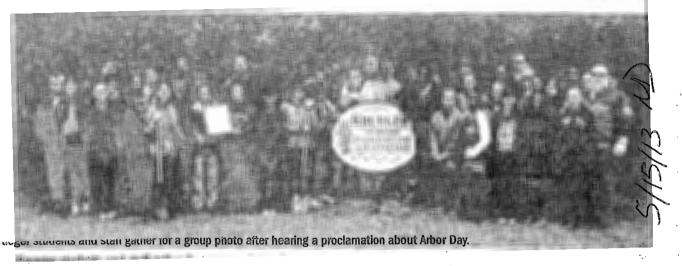
Phases three and four are a wetland area trail and a wetland area with boardwalk and creek restoration. According

to Jones, the school received a \$98,000 grant for the two wetland areas, one of which will include a floating boardwalk.

Currently, the school is still working on funding for the fifth phase, which will consist teacher Brian Schroll. "Rain of a butterfly habitat. The sixth phase will be a pond/marsh things that will keep us out of habitat, located directly in front of the school.

> Next week, Krueger Middle School will be hosting "Field Day" trips for elementary schools across the region. More than 900 students will be touring the forest management

Krueger will be celebrating Coastal Awareness Month by 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 1. The public is invited to tour both take place, as well as games Vera and activities for children.



Krueger students celebrate Arbor Day

Staff Reports

MICHIGAN CITY -Students at Krueger students at ment Path.

Department of Natural ness Month. Resources Community pal Golf Course and at others. Southgate.

vironmental ogy Class at Krueger, this past fall, offering along with teacher Brian students in grades 6-8 Schroll, planted the ma- coursework tailored to ture trees and will moni- environmental science. tor their growth. Stuthe school's new Forest 2061.

Management Trail, which will open on Friday.

Beginning Monday, Krueger Middle School marked will conduct elementary Arbor Day during a spe- school "field day" tours cial ceremony Friday, of the new Forest Manreading a proclamation agement Path and the and planting 12 mature Bird Habitat Trail, both trees on school property, of which feature learning mostly on Springland Av- stations on wildlife, trees, enue near the entrance to water and soil. From its new Forest Manage- 10 a.m.-2 p.m., June 1, members of the public The trees (mature red are invited to tour Krueoaks, honey locusts and ger's trail system during sycamores) were provided a "Water Festival" that by the City of Michigan will be held at the school City through an Indiana to kickoff Coastal Aware-

This family-friendly and Urban Forestry Tree celebration will also fea-Improvement ture activities and games Grant. According to City for children, food and ex-Forester Frank Seilheim- hibits by area organizaer, trees were also plant- tions including the DNR, ed in commemoration of the Northwest Paddling Arbor Day at the Munici- Association and many

Krueger Middle School Students in the En- opened as an Environ-Technol- mental Studies Center



For more information Students at Krueger Middle School planted 12 mature trees on dents in the class also about the school's pro- school properly, mostly on Springland Avenue near the entrance took the lead on creating grams, call (219) 873- to its new Forest Management Path on Friday in celebration of Arbor Day.

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News Releases

Volunteer uses engineering skills to increase exposure to STEM

Details

By Ann Richards Monday, April 29, 2013

Hits: 32

Al Walus, a senior project manager with Christopher B. Burke Engineering in Crown Point, Ind., is on a mission to increase the number of local students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). He is a volunteer with the Safe Harbor Afterschool Program in Michigan City, Ind.

In this interview with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Walus talks about why he believes it is important for schools to provide a space where partnerships with community organizations can flourish and volunteer mentors can provide students with alternative paths to learning.

Mott: How did you connect with the Safe Harbor Afterschool Program?

Walus: I started volunteering with an environmental science outreach program during summer school, and it caught the attention of Herb Higgin, who coordinates Safe Harbor. He was looking for ways to boost participation in STEM activities year round.

Afterschool really got our foot in the door. Once we got the ball rolling with a few initial contacts, the dominoes just started falling in place. We were able to recruit engineers and technicians from 14 local companies. We've found there are a lot of people out there with a passion for the sciences and a concern for kids. Volunteering turned out to be a lot less burdensome than most of us anticipated.

In the afterschool space, we're able to try activities that there's just no time for during the regular school day. In addition to time, Safe Harbor has made it possible for us to work with younger students in elementary and middle school, which is critical because you've got to introduce kids to these concepts before sixth grade if you want them to consider pursuing a career in science or engineering.

Mott: What conditions are necessary to create and sustain a successful volunteer program after school?

Walus: Good leadership and the ability to work over the longterm to engage with and facilitate the use of volunteers. Flexibility — being open to letting people volunteer on their own terms, whether it's weekly or on a shorter, more intense basis. A good program provides volunteers with the supports — training, scheduling, teaching space and materials — they need.

As a volunteer, I bring the technical and scientific training needed to give the kids a pretty interesting learning experience — but I have no ability to line them up to go to the bathroom. I'm in awe of the afterschool staff's ability to keep order and calm.

Mott: How do volunteers and community partnerships enrich afterschool programs?

Walus: Most districts are being forced to cut budgets, and one way to maintain the quality of learning is to use volunteers — and the resources of local nonprofits and businesses. Volunteers from outside the world of education and social work bring new ideas and strengths to the classroom — a new set of skills that can benefit the students and sometimes, the district itself.

Volunteers help bring a broader set of experiences. They can help open kids eyes to different things, new experiences. They serve as role models. It's not too often that elementary school students run into engineers. How will our kids know they want to be engineers if they've never met one?

Mott: Can you tell us a little about the organizational chart you created to describe Michigan City's afterschool STEM program?

Walus: As an engineer, I need to lay things out. I need to know who's helping with afterschool, who's doing what. The chart — I put it together one evening on my computer — was my attempt to diagram community resources and partnerships and track the relationships and intersections between the schools and the community.

There's always a lot of uncertainty when you try new things, test new relationships. For me, the chart helps maintain a focus on what we're trying to accomplish. The chart helps remind us who's on board, who needs to be kept in the information loop, who needs to be involved in making decisions. It's a public relations tool as well. It helps potential partners understand how we work to increase STEM activities during and after school.

Mott: What prompted you to volunteer with the Michigan City schools?

Walus: My parents set a great example for me as I was growing up. I guess you could say that I was predisposed to becoming a mentor because they were such active volunteers. I learned to pay it forward.

My motivation for volunteering with the schools grew out of my long-time membership with Michigan City's Economic Development Corporation — and my growing concern about the area's next generation workforce. In our corner of Indiana, the need for high-tech, high-skill workers is rising. Our prosperity as a community depends upon a well-trained, well-educated workforce. And as an engineer, I was looking for ways to connect students with the profession.

Michigan City's Safe Harbor afterschool program was featured in the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation's <u>2011 Annual Report</u>. To learn more about Safe Harbor and other model afterschool initiatives across the country, visit Mott's <u>Afterschool Issue page</u>.

(Note: This report is provided as a service to our readers from a press release submitted to eastvillagemagazine.org. It has been edited to conform to AP and local style. The originator of the release is responsible for all information provided.)

Barker students to donate bat boxes to Heinze Trust



Photo provided

Science students at Barker Middle School work on making bat used by bats for sleep- and habitats, and to see boxes, which will be donated to the Shirley Heinze Land Trust on ing during the day, and what they can do to help Earth Day.

By Kelley Smith Staff Writer

students in the sev- gered species. enth and eighth grades A sixth-grade science donate to the Shirley Earth Day. Heinze Land Trust at Barker science teach-Day.

were created in the stu-their community."

dents' science classes with the specific intent to provide designated MICHIGAN CITY - spaces for the Indiana Barker Middle School Bat, which is an endan-

have spent the past two class also will install weeks building 10 bat one bat box and a bird boxes that they will feeder at Barker on

8:40 a.m. at the school er Ralph Gee said, "It's Monday, which is Earth a good experience for the kids to find out The boxes will be about local animals

Barker Middle Schol raises funds for the African Well Project

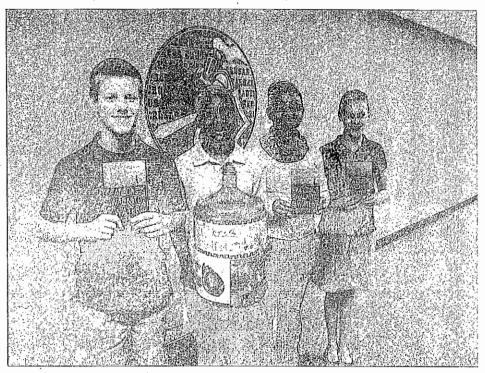
Staff Reports

MICHIGAN CITY - A "One Book One School" reading project has blossomed into a service learning project that Barker Middle School hopes will help provide clean drinking water for hundreds of people in Sudan.

Barker Middle School's fundraiser' - a "Penny War" for clean water began this week and will end Friday. All proceeds will go to Water for South Sudan, Inc., a nonprofit organization that drills wells to provide clean drinking water in Sudan. The Barker Student Council, which is spearheading the project, hopes to raise \$5,000 toward a well - which costs \$15,000 to dig and install.

Park. This Hoosier book Gushrowski. is based on a true story and focuses on the war in African girl's daily strug- One School" reading proj- how wells are engineered and the ongoing challenge her family. of supplying clean water in African countries.

parallel stories in the cates his life to the orbook. One story is about ganization Water for ed tie-ins to other areas will be accepted through Salva, a "lost boy" who South Sudan, Inc. He now of the curriculum: As Friday at the school. Fo walks to Kenya with drills wells in Africa to students and staff read more information, contac 15,000 other refugees to bring clean water to com- chapters of "A Long Walk Jill Grabowski, Barke escape Sudan's civil war; munities. the other story, set in present day, chronicles an schoolwide "One Book nouncements to explain 7350.



Barker Middle School's fundraiser - a "Penny War" for clean water - began this week and will en-Barker students and Friday. All proceeds will go to Water for South Sudan, Inc., a nonprofit organization that drills well staff recently finished to provide clean dvinking water in Sudan. The Barker Student Council, which is spearheading the the book, "A Long Walk project, hopes to raise \$5,000 toward a well - which costs \$15,000 to dig and install. Barks To Water" by Linda Sue Student Council members include Cody Roach (from left), Myon McGee, Dalin McCully and Megal

Salva and Nya tell two United States and dedi- Unity Foundation.

Booksžoz.

Sudan in the mid 1980s gle to provide water for ect were provided through the health implication. a Michigan City Educa- of drinking unsafe water In the end, Salva Dut tion Foundation grant for the science of water test grows up, comes to the teachers, a project of the ing and the history of the

> The effort also includto Water," teachers and Student Council adviser Barker's staff used daily video an- at (219) 873-2000, exi

strife in Sudan.

Donationsfortheprojec

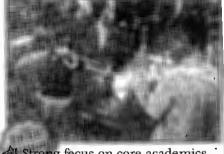
'n

Wanted: Curious, Creative

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Lake Hills Elementary 201.Ferguson Road A K-5 magnet school for Science. Technology, Engineering, & Math



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4/14/13 MD 44/11/13

MC students scientists for a day

Ivy Tech Community College invited Lake Hills Elementary School fifthgraders to be "scientists for a day" Friday at the Ivy Tech Pejic campus.

Two groups of students first were transformed into scientists by donning gowns, gloves and goggles and then went into the lab with Ivy Tech instructors, including David Merrill, who is the science program chairman at the Michigan City campus and teaches anatomy and physiology.

Merrill taught students about the heart, brain and lungs and fielding questions about how the brain works while dissecting a cow brain for the students.

The fifth-graders were allowed to hold the specimens and to learn more about each of the parts of the organs, and watched as Merrill inflated lungs with air.

Students also learned about fossils, rocks and minerals in another part of the lab.

Shelley Deutscher, STEM coordinator for Lake Hills, said the students were learning a variety of science concepts through the generosity of Ivy Tech and its staff.

- From staff reports

Students from Lake Hill Elementary School check out a set of pig lungs and brains as they taken part in Scientist for a Day at the Ivy Tech Milchigan City Pejic campus.

2. A student from Lake
Mill Elementary School
reacts after biting into
a liquid nitrogen frozen
cheese puff while taking
part in the Scientist for a
Day event.

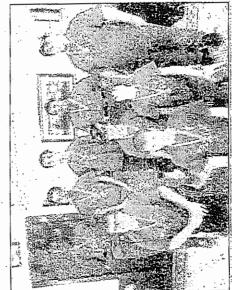
3. A student reacts after touching pig lungs. Photos by Bob Wellinski







Robolics leam wins



AWARD

CONTINUED from Page A1.

of 119-112.

gan City Area Schools championship title. and the only four-time and block more shots. The next season."

modifications proved effective; MC Robotics was closely matched with Team 71's robot through-Alliance by a comfortable out the match. In the end. margin of 124-86. A nail- the team suffered a devasbiting second match was tating 20-point technical won by the slim margin of foul when the Firehawk 7 points, with a final score was pushed across half court. The final tally was Up against the team that a 131-104 loss for MC helped create the robot- Robotics and the end of ics program in the Michi- the Firehawk's bid for the

Drive Team student world champions. Team coach Ben Miller said, "We 71 of Hammond, moving exceeded our wildest exon to the finals was bit- pectations in Chicago. To. tersweet for MC Robotics: be chosen for an Alliance but the team gave their and make it all the way to mentors some strong com- the finals was an unbelievpetition. After a 142-100 able experience. Our team first-match loss, the team will definitely build on modified their Firehawk this and come back even robot to increase its height stronger for competition

About MC Robotics

The FIRST Robotics program allows high school students, community mentors and their family members to work toward a common goal of designing, building, marketing and operating a competitive robot in a businesslike environment.

During the six week build season starting in January, the team designs, builds, programs, and operates a 120 pound robot to perform a task.

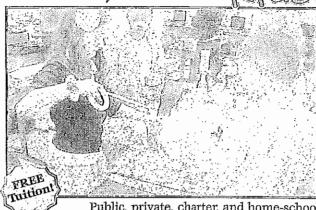
High school students from Michigan City High School. Marquette, La Lumiere and Victory Christian Academy currently participate in the program. All area high school students are invited to join the team.

For more information about sponsoring, mentoring or joining The MC Robotics Firehawk Team 3936, contact Herb Higgin or Sherri Silcox at 219-873-2026.

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Wanted:

Curious, Creative



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Strong focus on core academics

Pine Elementary 1660 County Line Road A K-5 magnet school for the Visual & Performing Arts

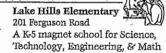
Enrichment in the

technology

arts and sciences

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Magnet school application deadline: April 19th

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Michigan City Area Schools Bachmann
March 31, 2013 6:00 am • <u>Times Staff</u>

Society selects March Innovators of the Month

As part of its effort to highlight its 2012-13 class, the Society of Innovators of

Northwest Indiana has selected Anthony Thurman and Connie Bachmann as its March Innovators of the

Month.

Anthony Thurman, an animated filmmaker from Gary, is the first Ivy Tech alumni to be inducted into The Society of Innovators. The founder of Alt Key Productions launched an award-wining animated series of short films that have won local, national and international acclaim.

Drawing from his own experience with depression, these films describe the challenges of a fictional police officer named "Detective Downs." He has produced two in this series, including his latest film, "The Depression of Detective Downs 2: On Depression's Edge." It won accolades at the Scottish Mental Health Arts & Film Festival in Glasgow, Scotland. Last October, it was selected for screening and competition at the Marbella International Film Festival in Spain.

Thurman works at Ivy Tech Northwest's Gary Campus part-time in the computer lab. Now starting his third "Detective Downs" film, he said producing these films helps others deal with depression because "Detective Downs" manages his caseload and life's challenges despite his disability.

When U.S. Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan visited Lake Hills STEM Magnet School, he encouraged educators to develop a rigorous STEM curriculum. His emphasis in 2011: Help students at the first STEM public elementary school in Northwest Indiana and the first non-charter magnet public school in Indiana become future problem solvers and innovators.

"Since we became a STEM school, ISTEP+ scores have dramatically improved," said Lake Hills Principal Connie Bachmann, "Students demonstrating proficiency on science rose from 61 to 77 percent."

Today, this Michigan City school is a model on spreading science, technology, engineering and math across the curriculum. Throughout the year, there are four themes that influence education among the 430 students, 85 percent on free and reduced lunch. These are life sciences; physical science; engineering and technology; and space and earth.

The society is part of the Gerald I. Lamkin Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center of Ivy Tech Community College Northwest.

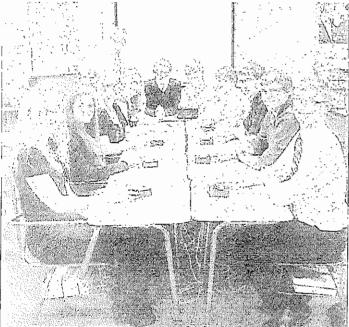
For more information, call O'Merrial Butchee, director of the Lamkin Center at (219) 981-4942, or John Davies, assistant director, at (219) 981-1111, ext. 2292.

Wolves Capture DAC Quiz Bowl Tourney Title

The Michigan City High School Quiz Bowl Team won the 2013 Duneland Area Conference Quiz Bowl Tournament, which was held at Chesterton High School on Monday, March 11.

The Wolves defeated Valparaiso High School (50-31), Chesterton High School (53-46), and Portage High School (67-48) to bring home the championship.

The team ended its regular season with a 6-3 record, and competed at the State Quiz Bowl Tournament at Lafayette Harrison High School on Saturday, March 16. The team will also be featured on upcoming episodes of the Lakeshore Public Television quiz show, "Making the Grade" (broadcast dates to be announced).

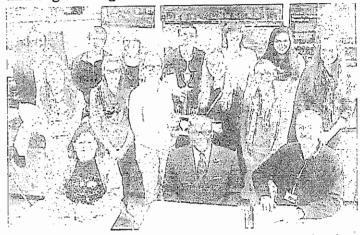


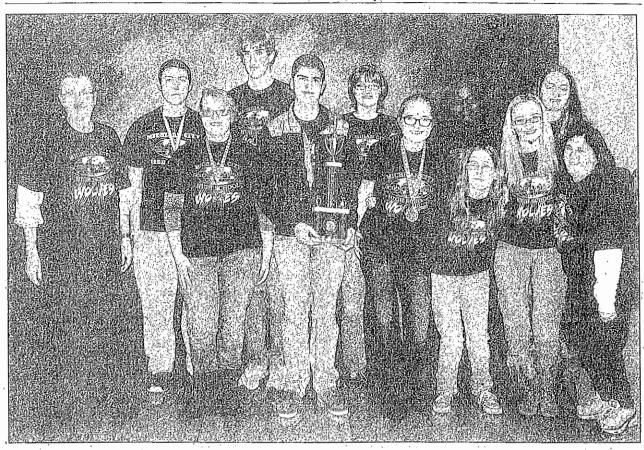
Pictured are Varsity and JV players (Seated, L-R): Lillianna Pollnow, Olivia Glowacki, Veronika Werner, Theresa Saenz, Evan Prast, James Kaiser, Ryan Krueger, Wesley Deutscher, Joshua Palmer, and Tyler Richards. Team coach (standing) is MCHS Social Studies teacher Brian Richards.

Support for Science Team

Horizon Bank Vice President Daryl Crockett (seated, center) stopped by Michigan City High School Wednesday afternoon to wish the school's Science Olympiad Team well as it heads to Indianapolis for the state finals.

Horizon is funding the team's expenses for the trip. Seated next to Crockett are Team Assistant Coach Katie St. Germaine and Coach Bob Gray. Team Members include: Seniors Zak Chappell, Wes Deutscher, Sierra McGinnis, Lillianna Pollnow, Ashley Ronvick, Veronika Werner, and Emily Yussum; juniors Mackenzie Clark, Kieri Everett, and Kiera Williams; and sophomores Christine Duers, Anasatasia Keelor, Joselyn Schooley, Ruth Serrano, Claire Werner, and Grant Wozniak. The MCHS Science Olympiad Team will be competing against schools from across Indiana in a variety of science and engineering events.





MCHS Science Olympiad Team members front row (from left); coach Bob Gray, Kieri Everett, Grant Wozniak, Veronika Werner, Anastasia Keelor, Lilliana Pollnow, assistant coach Katie St.Germaine. Back row: Zak Chappell, Wes Deutscher, Mackenzie Clark, Kiera Williams, Emily Yussum. Not pictured: Christine Duers Sierra McGinnis, Ashley Ronvik, Joselyn Schooley, Ruth Serrano, and Claire Werner.

IS Scienc heads to state finals

Staff Reports

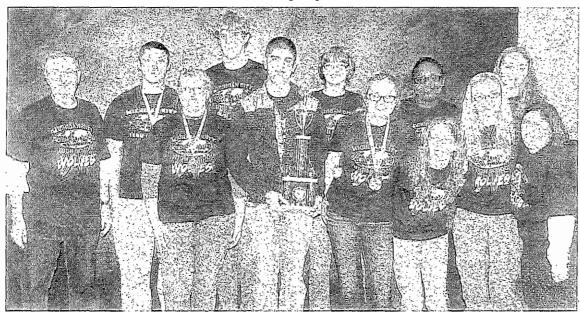
MICHIGAN CITY The Michigan City High piad Regional Science Olymand assistant coach Katie all title out of the eleven dedicated to improving teachers,

16 team members and events. The team also coached by Robert Gray received a fourth over-nonprofit organization by both students

St. Germain, garnered a high schools that compet- the quality of K-12 science

third-place divisional win ed, which qualified them education, increasing stu-- at the IUN Science Olym- to advance and compete dent interest in science, March 16th at the Indiana creating a technological-Feb. 23rd with their per-State Finals at Indiana ly-literate workforce and piad Team, consisting of formance in twenty-three University - Bloomington, providing recognition for Science Olympiad is a outstanding achievement

MCHS Science Olympiad Team Heads to State Finals



MCHS Science Olympiad Team members front row: coach Bob Gray, Kieri Everett, Grant Wozniak, Veronika Werner, Anastasia Keelor, Lilliana Polinow, assistant coach Katie St.Germaine. Back row: Zak Chappell, Wes Deutscher, Mackenzie Clark, Kiera Williams, Emily Yussum.

Not pictured: Christine Duers Sierra McGinnis, Ashley Ronvik, Joselyn Schooley, Ruth Serrano, and Claire Werner.

The Michigan City High School Science Olympiad Team consisting of sixteen team members, coached by Robert Gray and assistant coach Katie St. Germain, garnered a third place divisional win at the IUN Science Olympiad Regional on February 23rd with their performance in twenty-three events. The team also received a fourth overall title out of the eleven high schools that competed which qualified them to advance and compete March 16th at the Indiana State Finals to be held at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Science Olympiad is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of K-12 science education, increasing student interest in science, creating a technologically-literate workforce and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by both students and teachers.

CONTINUED from Page A1

where we were last year, when we had 40 percent of the robot complete."

completed and packed rookies and will need to away. The team was run- score well to move on. ning an exact duplicate through its paces, mak- neering and design skills, ing note of adjustments Steverson said the stuand revised parts that dents learn much more. will have to make the trip. They are learning things with them.

Robotics are pricey - with entry nizing, setting priorities, fees costing about \$5,000 how to work within a budand up. A grant from get and team work. NASA has helped defray some of the expenses, with team members and skills," he said. parents doing additional fundraising. Jars of sal- for the monetary supsa are available for \$5 and Holly's Restaurant Cargill, NIPSCO, Safe is hosting a fundraiser Harbor, JC Penney and Tuesday.

Wednesday and return on nation of materials and Saturday Another compe- assistance from compatition in Chicago is also nies like Sager Metals planned for the week of and 4-Thought, Steverson spring break.

Steverson said the team has a difficult task this year. Last year, in its first season, Michigan City was named the Rookie All Star team and earned a trip to the nationals. This This year, the robot is year, they are no longer

> In addition to the engilike time management, competitions problem solving, orga-

"They get a broad exposure to a lot of real world

The team is thankful port it has received from Horizon Bank. Other supwill leave port comes from the dosaid.

reers Academy of the A.K. Smith

we've got to do this unteered Friday morning Students of the A.K Smith Career Center vol

Center's structor



Students from kindergarten and third-grade classes perform for volunteers during the Lake Hills STEM Supporter a representation from the second and the second second Luncheon.

with the control of building and section in their

Lake Hills students, staff honor school volunteers

By Jessica O'Brien Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY - Lake Hills STEM Magnet Elementary School hosted its annual STEM Supporter Luncheon Monday afternoon. Parents, grandparents della kee and community members who have volunteered over the past dedicated to the bus drivers for Michigan City Fire Department school year were invited to the "taking us so many places in the Public Information Officer Mark school for the event.

According to Deutscher, STEM coordinator recently studied rocks and min- City Area Schools Transportafor Lake Hills, this luncheon is erals, also performed at the luntion District and members of the held at the end of every year for cheon, singing two songs from Pottawatomi Audubon Society. the school to say "thank you for their play "Rock Concert." Alicia Ebaugh from the La all of your time and support and Several people who attended Porte County Solid Waste Diswe hope we can count on you the luncheon were volunteers trict was also in attendance. She next year."

with several items made by Purdue University North Cen- "reduce reuse, recycle." by second-grade students.

According to Deutscher, this was tendent Barbara Eason-Watkins, you."

"I can tell you the community has really stepped forward to make sure this school is a success. On behalf of the district. I want to say thank you."

Barbara Eason-Watkins, MCAS superintendent

Baker, volunteers from Indiana

While lunch was provided by they contributed to the school, and I thank you." the school, the desserts were Several of the guests were partial Eason-Watkins also thanked contributed by staff members. ents, grandparents and retired the group of volunteers. "Everybody is a part of what teachers who have volunteered "I can tell you the community we're doing," Deutscher said. in various ways throughout the has really stepped forward to

Shelley Third-grade students, who Farm Bureau, the Michigan

ext year." for the STEM after-school pro-volunteered at the after-school The luncheon was decorated gram. These volunteers include program to teach students to

Lake Hills students. For exam- tral students and staff, Michi- Addressing the volunteers ple, thank you cards, made by gan City High School Honor who attended the luncheon, third- and fifth-grade students, Society members, parents and Lake Hills Principal Connie were set at each place setting. As grandparents.

Bachmann said, You represent a gift, the volunteers took home During the luncheon, each only about a third or a quarter flower pots that were decorated volunteer was asked to intro- of all the volunteers who have duce themselves and state how made Lake Hills what it is today

Three Lake Hills kindergar- year ten classes performed "Wheels Other individuals in atten- cess," she said. "On behalf of on the Bus" during the luncheon. dance included MCAS Superin- the district, I want to say thank



News > Local

Saying thanks: Lake Hills students and staff honor school volunteers

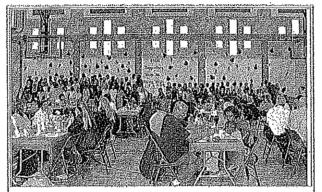
Print Page

By Jessica O'Brien Staff Writer

Published: Tuesday, June 4, 2013 5:05 PM CDT

MICHIGAN CITY — Lake Hills STEM Magnet Elementary School hosted its annual STEM Supporter Luncheon Monday afternoon. Parents, grandparents and community members who have volunteered over the past school year were invited to the school for the event.

According to Shelley Deutscher; STEM coordinator for Lake Hills, this luncheon is held at the end of every year for the school to say "thank you for all of your time and support and we hope we can count on you next year."



Students from kindergarten and third grade classes perform for volunteers during the Lake Hills STEM Supporter Luncheon. Photo by Jessica O'Brien

The luncheon was decorated with several items made by Lake Hills students. For example, thank you cards, made by third- and fifth-grade students, were set at each place setting. As a gift, the volunteers took home flower pots that were decorated by second-grade students.

While lunch was provided by the school, the desserts were contributed by staff members.

"Everybody is a part of what we're doing," Deutscher said.

Three Lake Hills kindergarten classes performed "Wheels on the Bus" during the luncheon. According to Deutscher, this was dedicated to the bus drivers for "taking us so many places in the community."

Third-grade students, who recently studied rocks and minerals, also performed at the luncheon, singing two songs from their play "Rock Concert."

Several people who attended the luncheon were volunteers for the STEM after-school program. These volunteers include Purdue University North Central students and staff, Michigan City High School Honor Society members, parents and grandparents.

During the luncheon, each volunteer was asked to introduce themselves and state how they contributed to the school. Several of the guests were parents, grandparents and retired teachers who have volunteered in various ways throughout the year.

Society selects two Innovators of the Wonth

Duo show new ways to solve problems

TIMES STAFF

As part of its effort to highlight its 2012-13 class, the Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana has selected Anthony Thurman and Connie Bachmann as its March Innovators of the Month.

Anthony Thurman, an animated filmmaker from Gary, is the first Ivy Tech alumni to be inducted into The Society of Innovators. The founder of Alt Key Productions launched an award-wining animated series of short films that have won local, national and international acclaim.

Drawing from his own experience with depression, these films describe the challenges of a fictional police officer named "Detective Downs," He has produced two in this series, including his latest film, "The Depression of Detective Downs 2: On Depression's Edge." It won accolades at the Scottish Mental Health Arts & Film Festival in Glasgow, Scotland. Last October, it was selected for screening and competition at the Marbella International Film Festival in Spain.

Northwest's Gary Campus parttime in the computer lab. Now start ing his third "Detective Downs" film, he said producing these films helps others deal with depression because "Detective Downs" manages his

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THURMAN



BACHMANN

See INNOVATORS, Page F8

THE TIMES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE F1

Innovators

Today, this Michigan City school is a model on spreading science, technology, engineering and math across the curriculum.

themes that influence education among the 430 students, 85 percent on free and reduced lunch. These are life sciences; physical science; engineering and technology; and space and earth.

The society is part of the Gerald I. Lamkin Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center of Ivy Tech Community College Northwest.

For more information, call O'Merrial Throughout the year, there are four Butchee, director of the Lamkin Center at (219) 981-4942, or John Davies, assistant director, at (219) 981-1111, ext. 2292.

TZ GETS A TOUR OF LAKE HIL

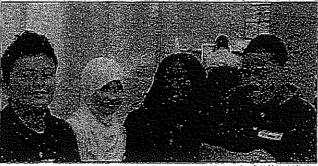
By Brian Schlender Staff Writer .

MICHIGAN CITY Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz toured Lake Hills STEM Magnet Elementary School on Thursday.

Fifth-grade students Omar Serrano, Marcus Blackmon, Hudah Achy Ritz around the school.

fourth-grade the independent projects forms.

STEM This quarter the fourth- equity, Ritz said. land forms.



Photos:by:Brian Schlender

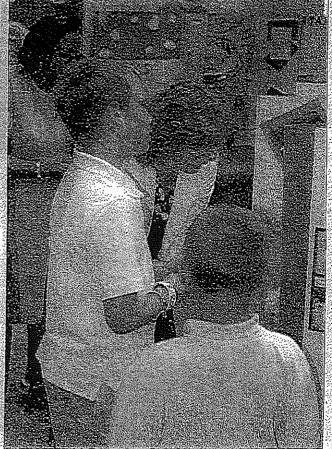
and Nyla Asad showed Omar Serrano, Marcus Blackmon, Hudah Achy and Nyla Asad showed Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz around Ritz paused in the Lake-Hills Elementary. Superintendent of Public Instruction Glencommon da Ritz looks at four-grader independent projects at Lake Hills area to ask students about STEM Magnet Elementary School.

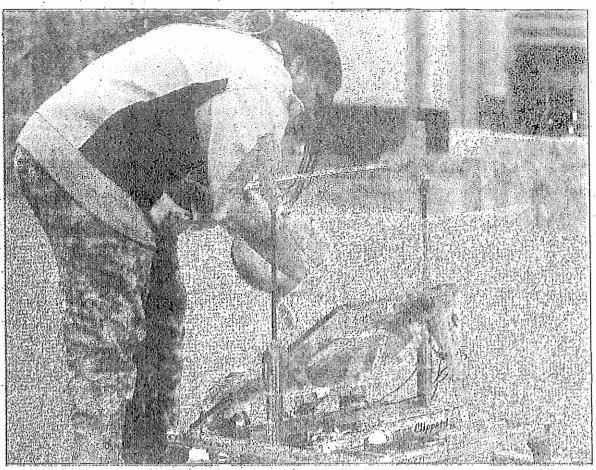
plained that each quarter "community approach." munities. students do projects re- The goal of the commu- Ritz plans to imple-

that she goes out a cou- schools need help with, high quality look like."

on display All the projects ple times a week to talk Once the areas are idenwere on erosion and land to school officials, may-tified, continued Ritz ors and community lead- the coordinators will be coordinator ers around Indiana. The shown how to identify Shelly Deutscher ex-tours are part of Ritz's resources in their com-

lated to what they study nity approach is to create ment a technology system to help coordinators graders studied how Ritz wants to identify find resources and update wind and water affect coordinators in each com- information about their munity who can then schools She wants schools After the tour, Ritz said assess the areas their to know what "equity and





Photos by Lois Tomaszewski

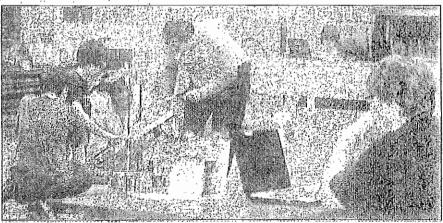
Robotics team member Shaylah Barron loads Frisbees into a robot for a test run Saturday. In this year's competition, robots have to throw a Frisbee while participating in Frisbee golf and climb a pyramid.

3/17/13NZ

By Lois Tomaszewski Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY tightening, Tweaking, fine tuning and debugging were the tasks at hand Saturday afternoon as members of the Michigan City Robotics team hosted an open house only days before their first competition of the season.

Now in its second year, the robotics team will leave Wednesday to compete in a regional tournafrom India is expected to be among the competitors taking part, lead mentor and coach Robert Steverson said.



ment in Wisconsin. A team Members of the Michigan City Firehawk Robotics team tweak the operations of the competition 'röbot'clone Saturday during an open house at the former Mullin Elementary School. Shown are: (from left) Ben Miller, Luke Cloninger, Shaylah Barron, lead mentor Robert Steverson, (in back) Riley Jones, Jacob Dabkowski and (foreground) Matt Pawlicke.

members approximately Academy in Valparaiso. The Firehawk robot six weeks to design, build has been redesigned to and test the robot. Team to exhibit a robot that January. That gave the School, La Lumiere School ings) and climb a pyra-

This year teams have and cross a bridge. meet the 2013 competi- members attend Michi- can compete in Frisbee change significantly from tion requirements, which gan City High School, golf (throwing a Frisbee year-to-year," Steverson were not announced until Marquette Catholic High through various open- said. "We are ahead of 10 high-school aged team and Victory Christian mid. Last year, the robot

had to throw a basketball

"These challenges

Please see ROBOT, A3

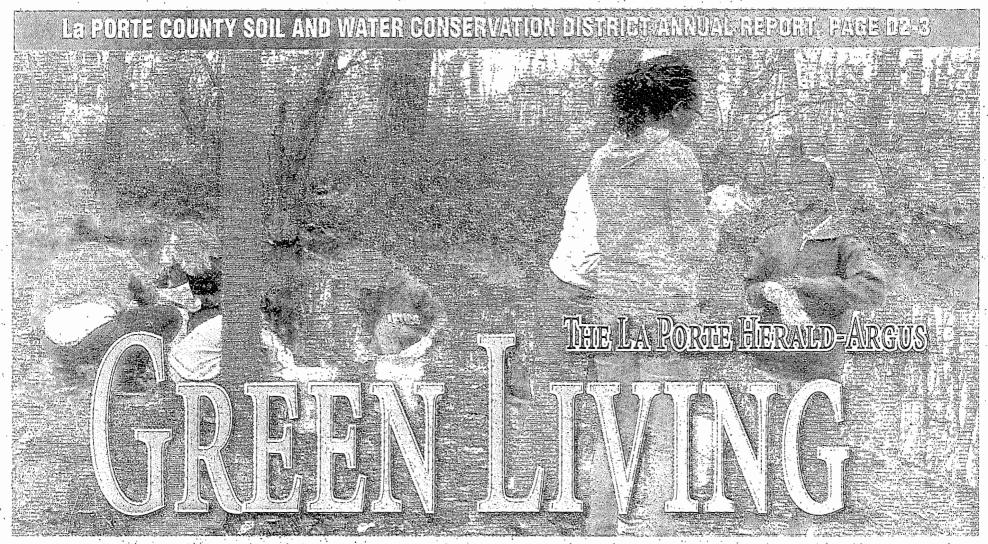


Horizon Bank Vice President Daryl Crockett (seated, center) stopped by Michigan City High School Wednesday afternoon to wish the school's Science Olympiad Team well as it prepared to head to Indianapolis for the state finals. Horizon provided funds for the team's expenses for the trip. Seated next to Crockett are Team Assistant Coach Katie St. Germaine and Coach Bob Gray. Team members include: Seniors Zak Chappell, Wes Deutscher, Sierra McGinnis, Lillianna Pollnow, Ashley Ronvick, Veronika Werner, and Emily Yussum; juniors Mackenzie Clark, Kieri Everett, and Kiera Williams; and sophomores Christine Duers, Anasatasia Keelor, Joselyn Schooley, Ruth Serrano, Claire Werner and Grant Wozniak.

Photo provided



D1 LA PORTE COUNTY HERALD-ARGUS Friday, Feb. 15, 2013 www.heraldargus.com



Krueger Middle School scientists are shown at Trail Creek in this photo from the La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District.

National Engineers Week a time

Society of Professional Engineers has been celebratof February. We should use this week to highlight the

growing importance engineering and technology education in our area. This week is also a great to sit time down with Ralph our youth and encour-



Gee III

age them to explore this growing career field.

Recently, we have been hearing a great deal about the importance of the STEM field: science, technology, engineering and math.

To break down the opportunities in this area, here are some facts from the America. Bureau of Labor Statistics

technology.

The overall average salaing National Engineers ry across all STEM occupa-Week during the third week tions was \$77,000 in 2009 (Cover, Jones & Watson, day about the importance Statistics, U.S. Department of 2011). Engineers as a group are looking at an 11 percent growth in employment over Outlook Handbook," 2012of the entire STEM area Schools has many opportufrom a recent article titled, "Where are the STEM Students?" is an additional 1.25 million jobs nationwide from 2012-2018 (Fraser & Munce, 2012).

By looking at these numbers, we can see the growth and financial stability a STEM career can achieve.

this week should be aware school which features Proj- stem-jobs-executiveof what engineers do and ect Lead the Way engineer- summary. Retrieved from why their field is so pivotal to the United States of technology and digital art. sites / default/

buildings, bridges and systems that make this great have to offer. country what it is today.

Talk to your children toyour student is interested.

this decade ("Occupational tunities for students to ex- Internet at http://www. plore their interest in this bls.gov/ooh/architecture-13). The projected growth area. Michigan City Area nities to advance students' interests including extracurricular activities like the Watson, A. (2011, May). robotics team at Michigan Science, technology, engi-City High School, numerous technology courses at the AK Smith Career Center, the elementary STEM http://www.bls.gov/opub/ magnet program at Lake mlr/2011/05/art1full.pdf Hills, and the STEM cur-Finally, everyone during riculum at Barker Middle R. (2012). Stem-studentsing classes, problem based www.stemconnector.org/ Take time this week to help files / store / STEM-Engineers and technolo- the young people in your Students-STEM-Jobsabout the STEM field, in gists are the people who de- life explore all of the op- Executive-Summary.pdf

Since 1951, the National particular engineering and sign and make the products, tions that STEM and the Michigan City Area Schools

References:

Bureauof Labor of these careers and see if Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition, There are many oppor- Aerospace Engineers, on the and-engineering / aerospaceengineers.htm (visited February 19, 2013).

> o Cover, B., Jones, J., & neering, and mathematics (stem)occupations: a sual essay. Retrieved from

· · Fraser, E., & Munce,

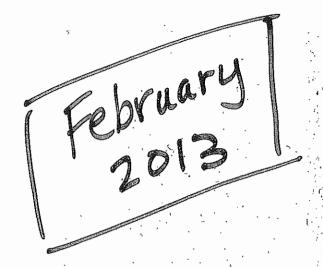
IPS taps veteran superintendent as interim leader

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) A former Indiana school Superintendent of the Year is being tapped to serve as interim leader of the Indianapolis Public Schools.

The Indianapolis Star reported the IPS school board will appoint 60-year-old Peggy Hinckley to replace Eugene White at its meeting Tuesday.

Hinckley spent 11 years as a superintendent in Indianapolis' Warren Township schools and was praised for improving the district's financial status and test scores. She retired last summer.

She was the state's top superintendent working in LaPorte bewhile fore moving to Indianapolis.



NEWS AL DISPATCH

Cargill steps up to help IMCAS students

Cargill in Hebron provided a big boost to Michigan City Area Schools Safe Harbor and Hours for Ours program Tuesday by donating \$8,000 to the programs during McMentoring Night at the McDonald's locations in northwest Indiana.

Tim Kay, who represented Cargill at the check presentation, said Wednesday that Cargill employees receive set funding every year that they are authorized to give away for the good of the community, and are authorized to apply for a matching grant from Cargill corporate for projects that meet certain criteria – or "hit the bucket" as Kay describes it.

In this case, the Safe Harbor and Hours for Ours program, and its accompanying robotics team program, "hit the bucket" in a lot of areas, from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education), robotics technology opportunities, the efforts to rebuild computers for social service agencies — those "hit the bucket hard" according to Kay.

And Cargill was also very impressed with the volunteerism effort shown through the mentor program, where adults work with students in an after-school setting to help them navigate their studies and their life.

And the donation isn't the end for Cargill, according to Kay. They hope to offer an opportunity for students who are learning hydroponics and gardening through the MCAS programs to come to Hebron for a Cargill visit to learn more about the plant.

According to Kay, Cargill's program to help programs like Safe Harbor and Hours for Ours is "one of the best parts of my job."

We commend Cargill for their generosity in helping MCAS continue its successful programs to help students through after-school learning activities and mentoring and hope other companies step forward to show a commitment to our city's youth and their future.

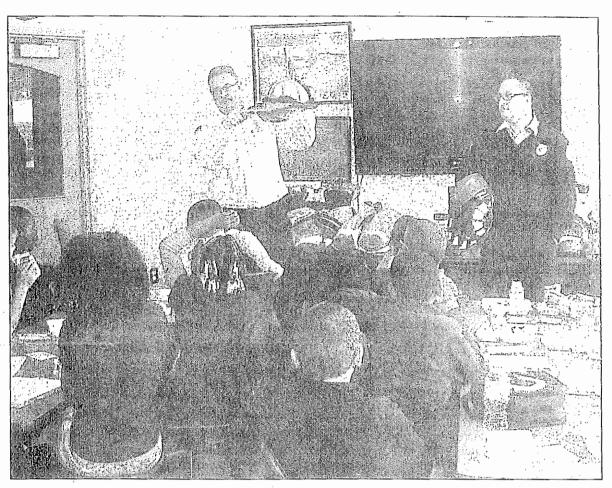


Photo by Kelley Smith

Michigan City firefighters Mark Baker (left) and Patrick Gordon explained their jobs and equipment to a room full of second- and third-graders at Lake Hills Elementary School during the school's Lunch and Learn program Thursday.

By Kelley Smith Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY — Michigan City firefighters Mark Baker and Patrick Gordon visited Lake Hills Elementary School, where they discussed their jobs and equipment with second- and third-graders during the school's Lunch and Learn program Thursday.

In order to show how the students' STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) training can be applied to firefighting, Baker talked about the gallons per minute and pressure per square inch (math) that can be released from a fire hose.

He also discussed special foam els.

for absorbing heat from fires (science) and communication equipment (technology) firefighters use.

Shelley Deutscher, Lake Hills STEM coordinator, said the Lunch and Learn program, which occurs participate in service projects intwice monthly, is specifically designed to show students the real- also will present research they life application of their current have done on each of the topics studies.

The Michigan City Fire Department, Michigan City Police Department and local EMS comprise to extend their learning, and this the Community Workers Group, which instructs second- and thirdgraders' Lunch and Learn ses- Deutscher said. "We want them sions. The Washington Park Zoo to become experts in the field that Group and Veterinarians Group also instruct the same grade lev-

Currently, the Astronomy Group instructs fourth- and fifth-graders; and the Robotics Group will begin doing the same soon.

In May, Lake Hills students will volving each of the groups. They for their families at the quarterly STEM Celebrations of Learning.

"It's very important for our kids is a great way to do that during the short time they're at lunch, they're interested in so that it can spark them into a career in that field when they are adults."



Photos by Kelley Smith

Sixth grader Sydney Merrill, eighth-grader Kate Kovalcik, sixth-grader Evangalea Dabagia and eighth-grader Michael Kring won the first place prizes in the physical, chemical, biological and creative research categories, respectively.

Barker students compete for 'best project' based on STEM curriculur

By Lois Tomaszewski Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY Eleven Barker Middle nual Science Fair.

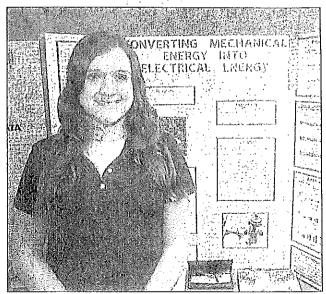
Nicole to eighth-grader with converting mechan-plants. ical energy into electrical last year and went on to Kovalcik, regional competition and the state level.

Also honored was Michael Kring, who was

pared the performance to manufactured versions. He is in eighth grade.

Other winners were: o Biological division School students were re- with 27 entries: sixthwarded for their scientif- grader Evangalea Daic expertise at an awards bagia, first place with ceremony Thursday at her project, "How Does the conclusion of the an- Age Affect Memory;" Makayla Williams, seventh The most prestigious grade, in second place award - Grand Cham- for "Do Canines Care pion honors - went to About Color;" third place sixth-grader Pomeroy, whose physical ily Gushrowski, for her science experiment dealt project about radioactive

 Chemical division energy. She was a winner with 25 projects: Kate an eighthgrader, won first place with her "Got Viscosity?" project. For examining "Vitamin C Levels in given the Creative Re- Various Fruits," eighth- in third for a project on place, sixth-grader Sydsearch Award. For his grader Karmen Halfaproject, Kring created cre earned second place paper speakers and com- and Rishi Verma came with 38 projects: first



Eighth-grader Nicole Pomeroy became the grand champion of Barker Middle School's 2013 STEM Fair after presenting her project, "Converting Mechanical Energy Into Electrical Energy."

electrolytes.

Physical science

ney Merrill for "Is There

Please see SCIENCE, A2



2013 Barker STEM Fair Round 2 Results

WRITTEN BY MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS

LAST UPDATED ON 28 JANUARY 2013

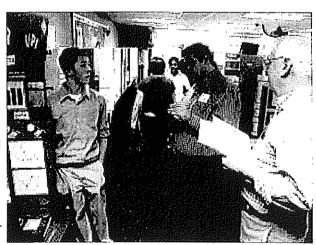
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Why study Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics? Why complete a STEM Fair project? Fortune 500 magazine's 9 out of the top 10 companies in 2012 are from the STEM fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. President Barack Obama stated: "Maintaining our leadership in research and technology is crucial to America's success. But if we want to win the future...then we also have to win the race to educate our kids." We must encourage and inspire students to study in the STEM fields and connect them with educational and career opportunities. Our students are our inventors, scientists, technicians, engineers, and mathematicians of the future.



Barker Middle School is now a STEM school! Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math are the focus. As part of our goals as a STEM school, EVERY student at Barker was required to complete a STEM Fair project for the 2nd grading period for Round 1.

Ninety students qualified for Round 2, which was held on Wednesday, January 23. The Biological Division had 27 projects, Chemical Division had 25 projects, and the Physical Division had 38 projects. Judging was during the day and based on Scientific Thought, Creative Ability, Thoroughness, Technical Skill, Clarity, and Dramatic Value. On Thursday, January 24, a public viewing of Round 2 projects was held, and awards were presented. Elite projects are encouraged to participate in the Regional Science & Engineering Fair at Valparaiso University on Saturday, February 23. Congratulations, Barker STEM Fair participants!



Special thanks to our Judges: Jane Medley, Grover Medley, Louise Pecoraro, Nino Pecoraro, Bruce Starek, and Bob Steverson

Science Fair Coordinator: Amy Hamann 8th Science

Barker Science Teachers: Jill Grabowski, 7th, Val Mecklenburg, 6th, Sarah Bohac, and Donna Lynch

Biological Division Winners (27 projects)

3rd Place 6th grade, Radioactive Plants, Emily Gushrowski

2nd Place 7th grade, Do Canines Care for Color?, Makayla Williams

1st Place 6th grade, How Does Age Affect Memory?, Evangalea Dabagia

Chemical Division Winners (25 projects)

3rd Place 8th grade, Electrolytes, Rishi Verma 2nd Place 8th grade, Vitamin C Levels in Various Fruits, Karmen Halfacre 1st Place 8th grade, Got Viscosity?, Kate Kovalcik

Physical Division Winners (38 projects)

3rd Place 7th grade, Basketball Dynamics, Molly Heath 2nd Place 8th grade, Achoo!, Haley Buchanan 1st Place 6th grade, Is There a Whole Lot of Shaking Going On?, Sydney Merrill

Creative Research Award

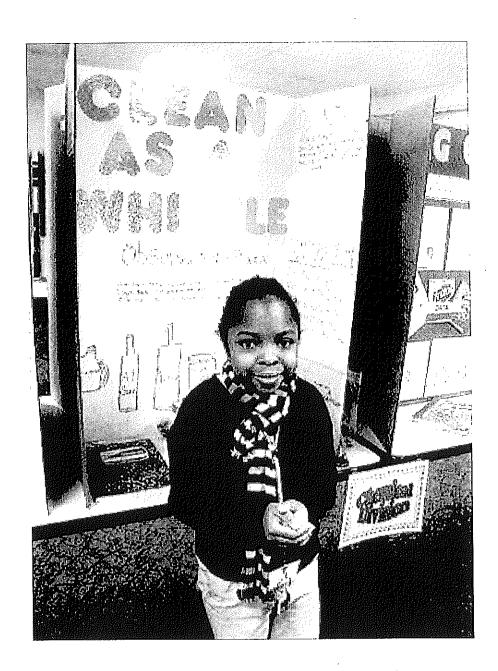
Physical Science Division, 8th grade, Paper Speakers, Michael Kring

Grand Champion

Physical Science Division, 8th Grade, Converting Mechanical Energy into Electrical, Nicole Pomeroy









Related Articles

- MCHS MCJROTC Conducts Demonstration for MCAS 8th Graders
- Krueger, Safe Harbor Honored for "Bringing Home Nature"
- Free Parent Wellness Workshop from Michigan City Schools
- One City One Sound Set for December 13th
- Elston Middle School to Stage "It's a Wonderful Life"

Career, technical education focus the February

Friday is the beginning of Career and Technical Education Month, which celebrates students, teachers and course offerings offered in La Porte County Career and Technical Education, including advanced manufacturing, automotive technology, construction technology, cosmetology, culinary arts, early childhood education, electronics/computer technology, facilities maintenance, health careers, and welding. Soon, a program in criminal justice and Law will be introduced here.

Our Legislature is busy promoting what is already being offered here in La Porte County, saying that career and technical education centers will be the focus of an effort to match more Hoosier students with future jobs that will be available in Indiana.

Students in career and technical education programs earn dual college credit, industry certifications and real-world employment experience that gives them a head start in finding a job, or furthering their education in college or in technical school.

Students in career and technical education programs earn dual college credit, industry certifications and real-world employment experience that gives them a head start in finding a job, or furthering their education in college or in technical school.

You can learn more about the programs offered locally to area students at a Career and Technical Education at a celebration from 10 a.m. - 2p.m. Saturday at the Marquette Mall, where staff and students will attend to describe their programs.

There will be a future careers expo

on Feb. 13 where students will have mock interviews with community members and area business leaders. And teachers have invited business owners to speak to students about starting a business in their program area during National Entrepreneur Week Feb. 18 through 25.













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Lake Hills, MC Robotics Inducted into Society of Innovators

WRITTEN BY MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS

LAST LIPDATED ON 02 NOVEMBER 2012

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Lake Hills STEM Magnet School and the Michigan City Robotics Team are among 15 teams that have been inducted into the Northwest Indiana Society of Innovators for 2012. The teams were recognized at a special reception on Thursday, October 18 in Hammond



The Society of Innovators was established in 2005, and it is a project of the Gerald I. Lamkin Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center of lay Tech

Community College Northwest. It celebrates innovators and innovation across seven northwest Indiana counties: Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Stark.

Each year, the Society recognizes individuals and teams and confers upon them Honorary Lifetime Membership. Inductees are selected after a careful and rigorous review process, and they must "demonstrate a new way, a different way, or a better way for Northwest Indiana and contribute to the economic development and greater good of our region, state, nation, or world." Principal partners and sponsors of the society include ArcelorMittal, Bukva Imaging, Horseshoe Casino, Krieg DeVault, NIPSCO, Northwest Indiana Business Quarterly, the Times Media Company, and the Center for Workforce Innovations.

Lake Hills was selected for induction based on its accomplishment as the only elementary magnet school in Indiana that is focused on STEM -- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. MC Robotics' "Team Firehawk" was recognized for its receipt of the Rookie Team Award at regional FIRST Robotics Competition last spring, and for representing Michigan City at the National contest in St. Louis.

"We are so proud of Lake Hills and of the innovative work that is taking place there, through the integration of STEM in the classroom, and through partnerships with higher education, businesses, and community agencies," said Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins, Michigan City Area Schools Superintendent. "We are also thrilled to have a regionally recognized robotics team for our high school students, created by our Safe Harbor program in collaboration with numerous business and community partners. The fact that two of our own were among those recognized for innovation this year by the Society is truly remarkable."

Representatives of Lake Hills and the Michigan City Robotics team were also honored by the MCAS School Board at its meeting on October 23.

At the Board meeting, Lake Hills Principal Connie Bachmann and STEM Specialist Shelley Deutcher provided an overview of activities taking place at the school, in the classroom, through after-school clubs, and as a result of community partnerships. Teachers Rebecca Kozlik, Shannon Chavis, and Susan Poehl described the integration of STEM subjects across the curriculum, the use of technology, and the field experiences and partnerships that have contributed to the school's success. Three Lake Hills students also addressed the Board: Fifth grader Nyla Asad spoke about the "Green Team" and other student projects; fourth grader Delores Adams spoke about her family's participation and enjoyment of quarterly STEM activities, and fourth grader William Mansfield spoke about study trips.

Safe Harbor Coordinator Herb Higgin thanked the many business, community, and parent partners who assisted the Robotics team. He noted that this year, Lego robotics has started at the elementary and middle school level, and three Sea Perch underwater robotics teams have been established in Michigan City and neighboring districts. Michigan City High School sophomore Megan Ludwig spoke to the School Board about her experiences with the MC Robotics team; last year she served as Safety Specialist for Team Firehawk in competition.



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EVENTS

<< November 2012 >>

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Click on a day to view events for that day, or view all events here!



Lake Hills Elementary celebrates sciences

By Lois Tomaszewski Staff Writer .

MICHIGAN CITY - Science, technology, engineering and math are always the focus at Lake Hills Elementary School - but on Monday evening parents, siblings and family members got a first-hand view of what happens everyday at Michigan City's only STEM

magnet school.

The Life Science Celebration of Learning featured a hot dog supper provided by the school's parent group, interactive booths set up in the gym by nine local agencies and organizations, and classroom times for parents and teachers throughout the school.

Jackie Thompson always. her booth, which featured process of ducks, one of many 4-H programs available to children in La Porte County

At the booth hosted by Janet Bloch of the Lubeznik school to teach art and na-Center for the Arts and ture," Bloch said. Corie Elliott, a Master Gardener, guests sampled said he frequently comes things." cheese spreads made from to Lake Hills' celebration herbs and micro-broccoli grown by students at the daughter's school."



PROTOS DY LOIS (Unidozewski

the school, Principal Connie ABOVE: Camden Campos (left) and lan Wagner blow bubbles Bachmann was on hand to into a bucket of water to observe how well they can float. direct parents to the activi- LEFT: Janet Bloch (right) from the Lubeznik Center and Corie ties and welcome guests to Elliott with the Purdue Master Gardeners serve crackers and cheese garnished with herbs and micro broccoll grown by stu-Volunteer and 4-H parent dents at the school during an open house Monday night.

had a bevy of kids around "We come here and we learn all the incubation and growth sorts of new things."

Carrie Snapp

school.

"We partner with the

events to "support (his) related activities happening

That same sentiment was expressed by Carrie Snapp.

"It's a fun thing," Snapp said. "We come here and Parent Thomas Walters we learn all sorts of new

Some of the fun science at the school Monday night

ences.

Agencies taking part North Central.

included the aerodynamics were: La Porte County Solof paper airplanes, match- id Waste, La Porte County ing animal poop with the Park Department, the correct species, a question Lubeznik Center, La Porte and answer game involving County 4-H Poultry Club, the environment and other Washington Park Zoo, La interesting projects. All Porte County Soil and Wadisplays and exhibits dealt ter Conservation district, with the concepts consid- International Friendship ered life sciences. The next Gardens, Potawatomi Auducelebration is Jan. 14 and bon Society, and students will focus on physical sci- from the Science Methods class at Purdue University



business working together

I was pleased to read the article, "Coalition between schools, business could help economy" in the Oct. 31 News-Dispatch

(Herald-Argus). I am hopeful that the recent presentation by PNC Econom ics Professor Anthony Sindone will continue to spark discus- Audra sion among Peterson, the business



La Porte County

communities of La Porte

County. Sindone pointed to Tech Valley, New York, as a model of what can happen Facility when business, community, and education comes together around Career Technical Education. Tech Valley follows eral advisory committee course work preparing and Technical Education a project-based learning also consists of key stake- students for these cap can help us pool our remodel, where instruction holders who have ties to stone programs. is rigorous and relevant both the educational and. It's a fact that students and retain business and to real-world applica- business world. tions. Students earn college credits; they combine ing our county's Career grams in the state of Indi-means a more prosperous problem-based learning and Technical Education and have a 7 percent high-future for the youth of our with internship experiences, in-class projects, and and relevant project-based those who do not. This Audra Peterson is Directhe extensive use of tech- environment based on In- success is due in no small tor of La Porte County Canology, including "techno diana's new "College and part to hands-on work in reer and Technical Educafield trips."

and deserves high-quality Porte County high schools job shadowing experiences Career and Technical Ed- will be aligning programs that area business and orucation programming like and curricula according ganizations can help us this. And we are well on to these Pathways, which provide.

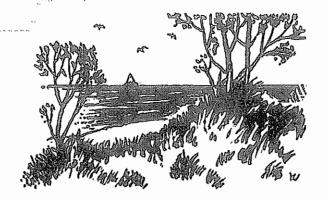
business facturing, Technology, Construction ciate certification. Technology, Cosmetol-Childhood year to include Criminal high schools will now de- it happen. Justice and Law Our gen- sign a clear "pathway" of

La Porte County needs 2013-14 school year all La ty and to internships and are modeled on success-

exposed to Career and industry in La Porte Coun-We are also transform- Technical Education pro- ty. And in the end, that curriculum into a rigorous er graduation rate than communities. Career Pathways." By the class and in the communi- tion.

As we refine our cur-La Porte County Career ful initiatives like Tech rent CTE programs and and Technical Education Valley and others. The consider future expansion, (CTE) works with key innovative learning envi- it makes good economic professionals, ronments that result will sense for schools and busiwho serve on advisory comincorporate dual college nesses to work together mittees for all of our CTE credits and business/into create a well-prepared programs. These currently dustry certifications, such workforce for La Porte include Advanced Manu- as the American Welding County and the larger Agricultural Society entry-level weld- region. I look forward to Science/Natural Resource ers' certification or the continuing the dialog with Management, Automotive Child Development Asso- the Michigan City and La Porte Chambers of Com-Already, all of the pro- merce, the La Porte Counogy, Culinary Arts, Early grams at La Porte County Convention and Visitors Education, ty Career and Technical Bureau, the Economic De-Electronics and Computer Education's A.K. Smith velopment Corporations of Technology, Engineering, Career Center offer dual La Porte County, our high-Maintenance, credit and industry certi- er education institutions, Health Careers, and Weld-fications. Under the new and the school districts in ing, and will expand next model, La Porte County La Porte County to make

Partnerships for Career sources, and will attract



Volume 28, Number 45 Thursday, November 15, 2012

LAKE HILLS STEM CELEBRATION: PUTTING LIFE INTO LIFE SCIENCES

by Laurie Winl

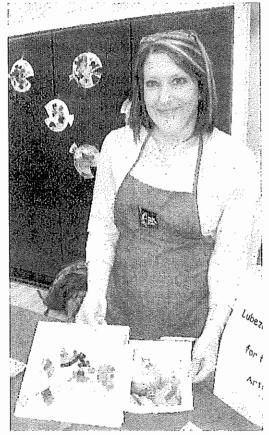
The joy of learning was evident in the energy-charged atmosphere at Lake Hills Elementary School's STEM Celebration of Learning for family and friends on Oct. 29. The two-hour event included a hot dog supper, a host of hands-on activities and the opportunity to visit K-5 classrooms to see students' work.

Lake Hills is one of two magnet schools operated by Michigan City Area Schools. It emphasizes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The October celebration focused on the life sciences and is the first of four programs scheduled throughout the school year. Shelley Deutscher, Lake Hills STEM Magnet School coordinator, said the next celebration will be focused on physical science, the third on engineering and the last on earth and space.

Principal Connie Bachmann said the STEM Celebrations are designed to give parents a learning experience and to show them that learning can be done with basic materials they have around the house.



Alicia Ebaugh, of the La Porte County Solid Waste District, challenges Kindergartener Ian and 5th grade sister Ariah Kussart with questions about the environment.



Janet Bloch, of the Lubeznik Center, displayed mosaic markers students are making for the school's outdoor nature trail.

"Our kids are doing many wonderful things," Bachmann said. "We like to get kids excited about learning with project-based experiences. We see the value and excitement of learning and find that, when kids are engaged, they have longer retention."

During the event, the Lake Hills Student Council collected families' Beacher

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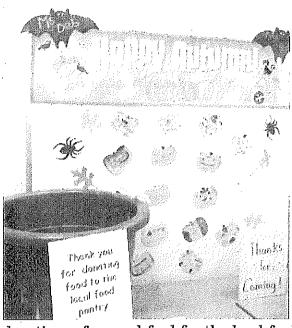
Published and Printed by THE BEACHER BUSINESS PRINTERS

Delivered weekly, free of charge to Birch Tree Farms, Duneland Beach, Grand Beach, Hidden Shores, Long Beach, Michiana Shores, Michiana MI and Shoreland Hills. The Beacher is also delivered to public places in Michigan City, New Buffalo, LaPorte and Sheridan Beach.

In Case Of Emergency, Dial



LAKE HILLS Continued on Page 2



Lake Hills Student Council collected families' donations of canned food for the local food pantry.

donations of canned food for the local food pantry. Lake Hills Parent Group leaders Colleen Cabanaw, Jamie Morford and others prepared a free dinner for 450 people. The parent group raises funds during the school year to subsidize special events, teacher supplies and student field trips.



Library volunteers Kris Bausback and Ashley Rucker

Library volunteers Kris Bausback and Ashley Rucker set up a book fair in the cafeteria to encourage families to purchase books and other educational materials. Profits are used to buy new books for the school library. Ashley's husband, Keith, was busy keeping track of six children - his own and children of

family members — who were bouncing around from place to place in their excitement to take it all in.

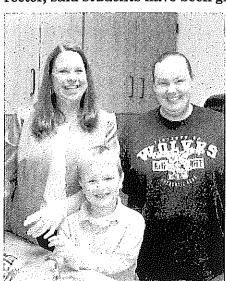
Principal Bachmann said parents are an impor-

tant part of Lake Hills. Willie and Candace McVea came to the celebration to, as Willie said, "find out what the kids are up to." Their children William, a first grader, and Cadence, in Kindergarten, are always excited about learning, he said.



Parents Candace and Willie McVea came to the celebration to find out about what their children, William and Cadence, are learning at Lake Hills.

Various community groups hosted learning stations scattered across the gym. The Lubeznik Center for the Arts teamed with the MCAS Safe Harbor after school program, La Porte County Master Gardeners and Green Farms Agronomics and Mycology, of Valparaiso, to cook up a culinary life sciences project. Janet Bloch, the Lubeznik's education director, said students have been growing micro-broc-



coli plants that have the same nutrients as regular broccoli and thrive in vertical growing conditions without soil. At the STEM celebration, Bloch and Corie Elliott, a Master Garden-

Jamie Morford and Colleen Cabanaw, of the Lake Hills Parent Group, prepared food for 450 people, including Austin Morford, who is looking for a cookle. er, were serving appetizers of crackers and cheese topped with the unique broccoli.

"We're showing kids how they can be creative with cooking," Bloch said. "The idea is that creativity extends to cooking and other areas of art besides the visual arts."

Bloch also showcased some of the special mosaic markers that Lake Hills students are creating for their school's outdoor study trail.

Alicia Ebaugh, education director for the La Porte County Solid Waste District, drew kids in with a colorful spinning wheel. Depending on where the wheel stopped, she asked players various questions related to landfills, recycling and other environmental topics. Kindergartener Ian Kussart and his fifth grade sister, Ariah, both got right answers and were rewarded with pencils. Ebaugh gave prizes to all comers because, she said, "You don't have to get the right answer, as long as you learn something."

Purdue University North Central students who are enrolled in Amy Hamann's "Science in the Elementary School" course, engaged students in handson activities that had strong educational components. Hamann, an eighth grade science teacher at Barker Middle School as well as a PNC instructor, said they are preparing to become student teachers



Logan Dworkik held the record for launching a paper airplane a distance of 58 feet.

A popular stop was the "Paper Airplane Challenge," devised by PNC students Todd Zelko and Mario Castillo, Kids and some parents -made airplanes out of card stock or regular paper and gave them a test flight to see which would go the farthest. The record holder was Logan Dworkik, a 4th grader from Joy Elementary School, who launched a paper plane a distance of 58 feet. He credited a continuous process of "trial and error" for his success.

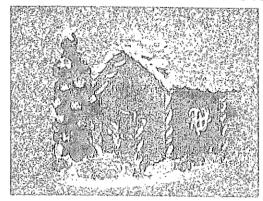
For future teachers Zelko and Castillo, it was educational mission accomplished.

"We've seen all kinds of designs," Zelko said. "They're thinking, they're getting involved and they're out there creating something and making it fun."

PNC students Ashley Solano and Courtney Michael engaged youngsters in a "Clay Boats" chal-



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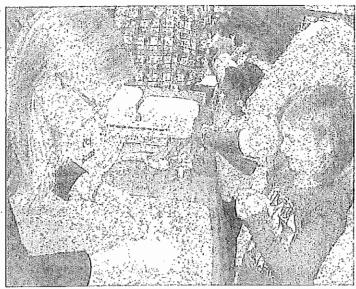
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LAKE HILLS Continued on Page 3



Ashley Solano works with Mackenzie Ponder on her boat.

lenge. Kindergartner Mackenzie Ponder and first grader Karmyn Summers were among those who tried building a clay or foil boat and adding cargo in the form of pennies or washers to see how long it would take for the boat to sink. Mackenzie was accompanied by parents Christina and Nolan Ponder and nine-month-old Emily and Shane. Karmyn was with her sister Kendall and cousin Maigen Dicristoforo.

"They're having a lot of fun deciding what to do to make it float," Solano said.

Nancy Barnes, director of the International Friendship Gardens in Michigan City, explained her work with the 75 Lake Hills third graders to plant hundreds of red tulip bulbs at the school.

"They studied soil, the types of bulbs and figured out how deep to plant them," Barnes said.

The red tulip project was part of the Red Rib-



bon Week activities held a week earlier. Each of the more than 430 students signed the Red Ribbon Pledge "electing to be drug free." The Pledge was displayed on the cafeteria stage, along with a voting booth and papier mache figures of Presidential candidates Barack Obama and Mitt Romney. As part of the Red Ribbon Week activities, students took part in a mock presidential election, according to Principal Bachmann. "Obama won by a landslide," she noted.



On stage with the Presidential candidates are: Bri Wilson, center, with nephews Jalen Kelley, a 2nd grader, and Jeremias Finnie, a 4th grader.

Climate Change Program at Nat. Lakeshore

Join research coordinator Joy Marburger at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's Douglas Center on Sat., Nov. 17 at 1:30 p.m. for a presentation highlighting the behavior of animals and plants in response to shifting climate patterns. Through slides and data, Dr. Marburger will discuss specific local examples of how to measure changes in plant and animal behavior.

After the program, add to the Douglas Center's phenology wheel by exploring outside, taking a picture, and adding it to the exhibit. Phenology is the study of the timing of plant and animal life cycles events and how they are influenced by changes in season or climate.

The Douglas Center Family Open House takes place every Saturday afternoon. Explore the center from 1 pm - 3 pm and check out the interactive exhibits, park video, and even the live animal room. If you want to enjoy the changing seasons, take a hike on the Miller Woods Trail just outside the center. Kids can make a free craft and help feed the center's fish and turtles.

The Douglas Center is located at 100 North Lake Street in Gary, the western part of the national lakeshore. For more information on this or other programs, contact the information desk at 219-395-1882 or check the park website at www.nps.gov/ indu/planyourvisit

Schools, businesses working together

I was pleased to read the article "Coalition between schools, business could help economy" in the Oct. 31 Herald-Argus.

I am hopeful that the recent presentation by PNC Economics Professor Anthony Sindone will continue to spark discussion among the business, com-

munities of La Porte County.
Sindone pointed to Tech Valley, New York, as a model of what can happen when business, community, and education comes together around Career and Technical Education. Tech Val-

ley follows a project-based learning model, where instruction is rigorous and relevant to real-world applications. Students earn college credits; they combine problem-based learning with internship experiences, in-class projects, and the extensive use of technology, including "techno field trips."



La Porte County needs and deserves high-quality Career and

Technical Education programming like this, And

we are well on our way.

La Porte County Career and Technical Education (CTE) works with key business professionals, who serve on advisory committees for all of our CTE programs, These currently include Advanced Manufacturing, Agricultural Science/Natural Resource Management, Automotive Technology, Construction Technology, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Education, Electronics and Computer Technology, Engineering, Facility Maintenance, Health Careers, and Welding, and will expand next year to include Criminal Justice. and Law. Our general advisory committee also consists of key stakeholders who have ties to both the educational and business world.

We are also transforming our county's Career and Technical Education curriculum into a rigorous and relevant project-based environment based on Indiana's new "College and Career Pathways." By the 2013-14 school year, all La Porte County high schools will be aligning programs and curricula according to these Pathways, which are modeled on successful initiatives like Tech Valley and others. The innovative learning environments that result will incorporate dual college credits and business industry certifications, such as the American Welding Society entry-level welders' certification or the Child Development Associate certification.

Already, all of the programs at La Porte County Career and Technical Education's A.K. Smith Career Center offer dual credit and industry certifi-cations. Under the new model, La Porte County high schools will now design a clear "pathway" of course work preparing students for these capstone

programs.

It's a fact that students exposed to Career and Technical Education programs in the state of Indiana have a 7% higher graduation rate than those who do not This success is due in no small part to hands on work in class and in the community, and to internships and job shadowing experiences that area business and organizations can help us

As we refine our current CTB programs and consider future expansion, it makes good economic sense for schools and businesses to work together to create a well-prepared workforce for La Porte County and the larger region. I look forward to continuing the dialog with the Michigan City and La Porte Chambers of Commerce, the La Porte County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Beconomic Development Corporations of La Porte County our higher education institutions, and the school districts in La Porte County to make it hap-

Partnerships for Career and Technical Education can help us pool our resources, and will attract and retain business and industry in La Porte County. And in the end, that means a more prosperous ful ture for the youth of our communities.

AUDRA PETERSON is Director of La Porte County Career. and Technical Education

Monday, November 19, 2012 The News-Dispatch



Receiving Chevrons were: Andrew Altherr - #4, Justin Smoker - #1, Nick Marsh - #3, William Harber - #3 and #4, Jaspar Miller - #4, Daniel Enriquez - #2, Kasey Nowatzke - #1, Grant Wozniak - #1, Frank Patejdl - #3, Not pictured: Andrew Venier Boklund - #1, Jena Karras - #3.

Staff Reports MICHIGAN CITY — The Michigan City High School Wolfpack Marching Band members and their families recently enjoyed an awards banquet and recap of their marching season.

The following students received awards:

Most Improved Trophy Shelly Enriquez - Alto Saxo

phone Trevon James – Tuba Allen Murray – Tuba Max Mahaffey – Tuba Alison Gil — Pit

Nathan Volckman – Pit Emily Glowacki – Color Guard

semny taywacki — Color Guar Sul Most Valviable Player Sarah Lynch — Flute ; Amy Kotaska — Barrione Dick Marsh, Andrew Altherr

Percussion
Kara Rogers — Color Guard
Soloist
James Kaiser — Trumpet

Rebecca Richmond Guard:

Drum Major Trophy Marque Steinhagen Assistant Drum Major Patch

Kasey Nowatzke

Section Leaders Flute Kieri Everett Clarinet Jaspar Miller Alto Sax — Wesley Deutscher Tenor Sax — Olivia Glowacki Tenor Sax — Ofivia Glowacki
Trumpet — James Kaiser at
Tuba — Trevon James
Percussion — Andrew Altheri
Baritone — Will Harber
Pit — Christine Hutchinson
Letters
Kieri Everett, Zacc Warner
Stars

Wesley Deutscher - Bronze and Silver Stares

Receiving .: Rookie of the Year trophles: for the Wolfpack Marching Band were Hannah Moore - Trumpet is the Carlie Vittatoe Flute, Spencer Marsh Per-Kasidy Bowman Color Guard.

Christine Hutchinson and Gold Star. Bronze and Sil-Trevon James

Platinum Award Plaque

Marque Steinhagen Color Guard Kara Rogers Chevron #1 and

aptain Patch Kiana Williamson – Letter Tia Majied — Letter Tessa Scherer — Letter

Sara Kreigbaum — Chevron #1. Tasha Lawrence:— Chevron #2 Rebecca Richmond - Chevron #1



Photo by Kelley Smith

Safe Harbor and robotics program coordinator Herb Higgin discusses the core values presentation created by Michigan City's FIRST Lego League teams.

Robotics teams' debut earns recognition

By Kelley Smith Staff Writer

first-place trophy at the won the first place trophy via USB portals. ration and Recognition of category. Science and Technology) Lego League Competi- event was Senior Solu- tasks, such as balancing tion at Indiana University tions. Participating teams on ramps, turning wheels,

Northwest.

ons finished 11th out of 19 teams from throughout ous tasks while navigat- down bowling pins, all cre-The robotics teams at Northwest Indiana and Lake Hills Elementary won the first place trophy a board about the size of and Barker Middle schools in the mechanical design, a pool table. The students chanical aspect of the ended their first season on Barker's Lego Vipers fin- programed the robots and competition, participants Sunday, when each won a ished 14th overall and linked them to computers were required to research annual FIRST (For Inspi- in the event's teamwork

that could perform variing a route mapped out on ated from Legos pieces.

senior citizens, and had to that typically affect the The theme of this year's be designed to accomplish elderly.

were tasked with creat- picking up pill boxes, walk-The Lake Hills Lego Li- ing football-sized robots ing dogs, moving quilts and rolling a ball to knock

In addition to the medifferent ailments, such as The robots represented arthritis or osteoporosis,

said,

also had success

SCHOOLS

CONTINUED from Page A1

be placed on math scores. "Our teachers are working extremely hard - plex and multi-layered, to be addressed is level- tions here in Michigan our high school Algebra and it may not accurately ing the achievement gaps City and in today's chalbers, representatives from perform at high levels." businesses supporting cation representatives.

due North Central."

Freshman Academy and move an improving graduation these budget cuts." rate are two of the successes the district has custodial staff and in-dress to recognize topachieved. Eason-Watkins structional talked about the abilities in the schools. It also munity partners of MCAS students to be switched the school-run, contribute to programs high achieving and show- non-state-supported pre- and innovations and posting the initiative to make kindergarten the most of the programs offered. Dual enrollment, which allows students to earn both high school and college credit, is one of these indicators and will be expanded in both the high school and the A.K. Smith Career Center next year.

"I cannot stress enough how important dual credit is for our students," Eason-Watkins said. "This adds up to thousands of dollars in tuition savings."

But the district is not without challenges, she said. When state grades for schools is released later this fall, Eason-Watkins told the audience

to expect grades ranging to private programs, co- that have made commitfrom an A to an F.

calculate these grades is nation Station. far from simple," Eason- Another issue the su- "We have some wonder-Watkins said. "It is comperintendent said needs ful people and organiza-

Budget cuts that reforward despite dents."

ordinated by the La Porte ments to the school dis-"The formula used to County YMCA and Imagi-trict's high achieving stu-

teachers are especially tell the whole story about between racial groups and lenging times it truly takes concerned and passion- the progress the schools students from various a village," Eason-Watkins ate about turning this are making But this is not economic levels. Hispanic said. "And this village is around," she told the au- where we want to be. My and white students tend stepping up for Michigan dience which included expectations and those of to achieve at a higher City Area Schools," teachers and administra- the entire community are percentage on state tests tors, school board mem- that all of our schools will than black or multi-racial students.

"We must ensure that and post-secondary edu- sulted in loss of positions there are safety nets for "State of our Schools" adand changes in both ath- our children," Eason-Wat- dress can tune in at 8 a.m. "And so we are develop- letic and extra-curricular kins said. "We cannot just and 6 p.m. daily to Chaning a new strategy, and we programs were difficult to provide interventions for nel 98 and on the MCAS will be working with math see. Eason-Watkins said, some struggling students web site from Oct. 4 to experts from the Univer- "We must be fiscally re- and focus on those close Oct. 22. sity of Chicago and Pur- sponsible," she said. We to meeting standards. We must and will find a way are held accountable for Implementation of the to maintain our focus and growth for all our stu-

> Eason-Watkins The cuts impacted the . some time during the adassistants performing schools, comprograms secondary

dents.

If you missed it

Anyone who missed the



Michigan City Area Schools Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins concludes her annual "State of the Schools" address Wednesday at the Michigan City High School auditorium.

By Lois Tomaszewski Staff. Writer

timistic, encouraging and 2010, the school district priorities." motivating, Michigan City has made improvement Area Schools Superinten- in academics, while in- teaching reading, writing universities. dent Barbara Eason-Wat- creasing program options and arithmetic, Easonkins provided an update for students and prepar- Watkins said the district reading and language arts es and priorities for the These will continue to be standards, provide content district's schools at her an- the focus as the school that is rigorous and relnual address to the com- looks ahead, she said. evant and encourage stu- said the emphasis needs to munity Wednesday night "It continues to be a dents to take responsibiliat the yearly State of Our blue print guiding us as ty for their own education.

Schools address.

we move forward," Eason- That is achieved by pro-Leading off with what Watkins said. "The strate-Eason-Watkins termed the gies outlined in the MCAS MICHIGAN CITY - "gold medal goals" from 2006 Strategic Plan all eral subjects and putting With a tone that was op- her inaugural address in relate back to these three dual credit programs in

viding expanded advanced placement courses in sevplace for local four-year Striving for more than community colleges and

Higher test scores in on the progress, challeng- ing students for careers. has tried to raise teaching were achieved by several schools at all levels last year, but Eason-Watkins

Please see SCHOOLS, A3

ing science outside the classroo

By Lois Tomaszewski Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY Sixth graders at Krueger Middle School spent several hours in the woods Tuesday morning, all in the name of science.

It was time for the third annual water sampling project along Trail Creek along the Karwick Nature trail, organized by the La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District. The hands-on, activity teaches students concepts such as testing methods. an understanding of how to determine water quality and lessons in aquatic and natural environments.

"The program is part of Krueger Middle School's



Krueger Middle School sixth grader Thomas Walers watches as La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District education coordinator Nicole Messacar checks the data. Walers' class Please see SCIENCE, A3 learned about water testing as part of their environmental science.

CONTINUED from Page A1

when Krueger was pre- La Porte County." paring to become an envivery 'place-based,' which ture was conducive to the in the classroom in the en-means students learn salmon that live and breed vironment, such as these in their own backyards, collect and record scien- data collection skills at We have all heard about tific data. students that equate "environment" with some far- stations and performed tion to form conclusions at away place like the rain various activities, such the macro invertebrates forest or the tundra. We as measuring pH, water collection station; and the wanted them to see that temperature, looking for problem caused by invaworth caring about."

is part of the environmenthe outdoors learning this tal science curriculum for sixth graders, Assistant Department of Natural Principal Vera Jones said. Resources and Frank Seil-For the first nine weeks, heimer, Michigan City's

the focus has been on wa- urban forester. ter quality.

ronmental science magnet standing included discussconcepts that we thought of zero phosphates meant rately." were important. We want- the absence of pollutants, ed the curriculum to be why a cold water tempera- apply what they learned about the environment in the creek and how to lab procedures, or their

what they have right here the presences of nitrates sive species, such as sea is beautiful, wonderful and and counting water-borne lamprey. insects in a sample. Oth-The outing to Trail Creek ers helping coordinate year were the Indiana

"Hands on activities al- to work with professionals pulled from the fishing low students to take learn- from the community all weir, touch the fish, learn Environmental Science ing to a higher and deeper while getting a real life exabout different species of curriculum," said Nicole level of thinking," Jones perience in investigating fish in Trail Creek, and Messacar, education coor- said. "This allows students the quality of their Michi- learn about fish spawndinator with the Soil and to explore, analyze and gan City waterways," sci- ing," Maycroft said. Water Conservation dis- develop conclusions about ence teacher Amanda trict. "Several years ago, issues that are relevant to Maycroft said. "Students have been working hard to Some of this under-learn lab techniques and procedures in order to do school, we put together ing why a measurement the tests safely and accu-

> Students were able to the site survey station; Students visited several how to interpret informa-

"Students also got a rare "Students got the chance chance to have the fish

A.K. Smith Career Center/Ivy Tech dual credit program expansion

By Lois Tomaszewski Staff writer

MICHIGAN CITY -- A meeting with counselors from six La Porte County High Schoolsturned out to be a fine opportunity to announce an expanded partnership between the A.K. Smith Career Center and Ivy Tech Community College that will offer more opportunities for students to earn college level credits.

"This will allow us and allow our students to continue their education the next level," A.K. Smith director Audra Peterson

"We do want to continue to meet the needs of business and industry and the career interests of our students so they can at ments for those positions."

Forty-one dual college credits are currently offered to A.K.. Smith students for 14 courses taught at the school. These credits are offered in automotive technology, culinary science, electronics, health careers and welding.

The expanded dual credit program will add 11 more courses to be in place for the start of the 2014 school year. These credits as early childhood education, advanced manufacturing, construc-

"Research by the Indiana Department of Education has shown that students enrolled in Career and Technical Education programs are 7 percent more likely qualify for post-secondary oppor-Chancellor of Ivy Tech Commu-Campus.

"Dual credit is an important element in our partnership with CTE programs in La Porte Counand technical education in North- in the region take part, he said. west Indiana."



Photo by Lols Tomaszewski

least meet the minimum require. Celebrating the expansion of a dual credit agreement are front row, from left: Charlie Roberts, Horizon Bank; Barbara Eason-Watkins, Michigan City Area Schools superintendent: Audra Peterson, director, La Porte County Career and Technical Education; Rick Soria, vice chancellor, Ivy Tech Community College Pejic Campus; (back row, from left) Derek Dabrowiak, regional director of admissions, student affairs, Ivy Tech; Joe Arredondo, regional director of K-12 Initiatives, Ivy Tech; Angle Nelson, manager, public affairs, NIPSCO; and Kevin Kieft, executive director, Michigan City Economic Development Corp.

> officials about what the college community.

Having these discussions is will be offered in disciplines such important," he said, "It helps us] determine what we can do to meet these needs. The impact of tion technology and criminal the relationship building and fostering resonates in how we can better serve the community."

But even beyond the career planning and job opportunialso helps families save money to graduate from high school and on the cost of a post-secondary tunities," said Rick Soria, Vice Director of K-12 Initiatives Joe Arredondo said. "Ivy Tech's dual nity College Michigan City Pejic credit is free," he said. "Free for bers of the business community everyone."

Locally, the dual credit program in Northwestern Indiana nouncing the dual credit expangrew by 20 percent last year. Colty. We are committed to working lege wide, families saved \$4 miltogether to increase these oppor- lion through the dual credit protunities and to strengthen career gram. More than 2,500 students tive director of the Michigan City

"It's definitely worth it for stu-Soria remarked that the inter- dents," Arredondo said, "It is beaction between faculty and stu- coming more popular as parents dents at A.K.Smith was impres- learn about it." Michigan City ing us towards great heights," sive. He also said he appreciated Area / Schools Superintendent Eason-Watkins said.

being able to talk with school Barbara-Eason Watkins agreed that the program is an economic selors, who "are often the first can do to help students and the boom for local families. "The tuition savings is money in the pockets of our La Porte County families," she said. "We look forward to growing the number of these courses in conjunction with Ivy Tech."

forged Wednesday with Ivy Tech help "rebuild the confidence of the business commu-Education in La Porte County, Eason-Watkins said, "so we can education, Ivy Tech's Regional have a top quality career education facility.'

Eason-Watkins thanked memwho attended the Wednesday morning press conference ansion. Charlie Roberts with Horizon Bank, Angie Nelson, with college tuition. NIPSCO and Kevin Keift, execu-Economic Development Corp. were among the representatives from area businesses on hand.

"We are in this together, mov-

She also thanked the counto reach our students." Peterson also thanked her staff who have to provide additional documentation and possibly take a class to qualify to teach in the dual credit

"They have committed to put Relationships like the one this in place for their students," she said. "We will continue to work together as a team."

In addition to Ivy Tech, the La ties the dual credit provides, it nity" in Career and Technical Porte County CTE program has dual credit agreements with both Purdue University North Central and Vincennes University. Since the 2010-11 school year, the number of dual credits earned by CTE students has increased by 14 percent. Because there is no cost to students for these credits, this represents a savings to area families of more than \$35,000 in

> "These Dual Credit courses give our students a jump start in earning industry certifications and associate or bachelors' degrees," Peterson said. "The coursework is rigorous, and it is preparing our students for high-demand jobs in our region."

Michigan City High School students have spent the past week learning about how to get on track to go to college at the end of their high school career.

This effort is a valuable and important focus for the students because it focuses on encouraging high school students to take specific, practical steps to prepare for the future - a future that includes a college degree.

Parents who have a first-time college-bound student learn quickly that the process of applications, financial aid, college choice, college visits, SAT tests and scholarship applications is lengthy and somewhat bewildering.

High school guidance counselors, college advisors and financial aid staff all can help a student get on the path toward college. And the time to start thinking about college is as early in high school as possible. That's because course choices in high school, and how well a student does in those courses, can determine eligibility for scholarships and financial aid, preparation for the tests that will be used to determine college eligibility and possibly testing out of certain college

And, with the announcement of dual credit programs being offered through Purdue North Central and Ivy Tech Community College, deciding on a college path as early as possible can have major costsaving factor too. We hope the high school continues its focus on steering more students toward the challenging road to college and that students visit www. collegegoweekindiana.org to learn more. While the process may seem overwhelming, it can be done with the right information and some help from the people who have traveled the road before. Don't hesitate to seek the resources to help your student succeed.

CAR WASH

CONTINUED from Page A1

check" for their car wash when the bad weather made car-washing and fund-raising a bad mix.

"Oh yeah, they'll win." predicted Dave Sisk, the manager of community investments for the La me," Pate said, as a by-Porte County United Way during Friday's wash - referring to the school district. "It's only 2:30 p.m. and it goes until 6 p.m.... And once the high school kids get out... to have the Superintendent wash their cars.... Yeah, they'll win."

A slew of volunteers from the United Way coalition and faculty and staff from the MCAS were hard at work in the early afternoon, and the pace did not show signs of slowing.

 \mathbf{The} Michigan Baker, a spokesperson for was a gesture of gratitude for the school bus, which MCAS brought to the po- car-washing-kind-of-girl lice and fire department ... "Jones said. "But it's a car washes last week.

Pate, the executive direc- good to see people support tor of the La Porte County it."

United Way, staged another gag to raise money for their non-profit.

In exchange for \$100. Pate and Sisk offered to have an egg fight and walk through the car wash.

"Well, originally, Dave said he'd just let me throw eggs at him... because he was trying to be nice to stander blurted out that it was because Pate was such a poor shot.

"But I couldn't let him do that," Pate concluded.

Participants and volunteers at the wash "scrambled" the cash together quickly and held Pate and Sisk to their promise.

Jordan Wojasinski, an employee for Safe Harbor's after school and morning care programs, and Tanya Jones, a mentor and coordinating mentor for Niemann Elementary School and Barker City Middle Schools, attended Fire Department stopped the car wash as volunby with its Fire Safety teers. They said although House —in what Mark the wash was a lot of funand-games, they thought the Fire Department, said the cause behind it was important.

"I'm not exactly the good event; it means a lot Sisk, along with Kris to our community, and it's

Return to Headlines Lake Hills, MC Robotics Inducted into Society of Innovators



Lake Hills Principal Connie Bachmann is congratulated by School Board Member Dr. Vidya Kora

Lake Hills STEM Magnet School and the Michigan City Robotics Team are among 15 teams that have been inducted into the Northwest Indiana Society of Innovators for 2012. The teams were recognized at a special reception on Thursday, October 18 in Hammond.

The Society of Innovators was established in 2005, and it is a project of the Gerald I. Lamkin Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center of Ivy Tech Community College Northwest. It celebrates innovators and Innovation across seven northwest Indiana counties: Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Stark.

Each year, the Society recognizes individuals and teams and confers upon them Honorary Lifetime Membership. Inductees are selected after a careful and rigorous review process, and they must "demonstrate a new way, a different way, or a better way for Northwest Indiana and contribute to the economic development and greater good of our region, state, nation, or world." Principal partners and sponsors of the society include ArcelorMittal, Bukwa Imaging, Horseshoe Casino, Krieg DeVault, NIPSCO, Northwest Indiana Business Quarterly, the Times Media Company, and the Center for Worldorce Innovations.

Lake Hills was selected for induction based on its accomplishment as the only elementary magnet school in Indiana that is focused on STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. MC Robotics "Team Firehawk" was recognized for its receipt of the Rookie Team Award at regional FIRST Robotics Competition last spring, and for representing Michigan City at the National contest in St. Louis.

"We are so proud of Lake Hills and of the innovative workthat is taking place there, through the integration of STEM in the classroom, and through partnerships with higher education, businesses, and community agencies," said Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins, Michigan City Area Schools Superintendent. "We are also thrilled to have a regionally recognized robotics team for our high school students, created by our Safe Harbor program in collaboration with numerous business and community partners. The fact that two of our own were among those recognized for innovation this year by the Society is truly remarkable."

Representatives of Lake Hills and the Michigan City Robotics team were also honored by the MCAS School Board at its meeting on October 23.



Safe Harbor's Herb Higgin receives a recognition certificate from School Board Secretary Bill Greene.

At the Board meeting, Lake Hitis Principal Connie Bachmann and STEM Specialist Shelley Deutcher provided an overview of activities taking place at the school, in the classroom, through after-school clubs, and as a result of community partnerships. Teachers Rebecca Kozlik, Shannon Chavis, and Susan Poehi described the integration of STEM subjects across the curriculum, the use of technology, and the field experiences and partnerships that have contributed to the school's success. Three Lake Hills students also addressed the Board: Fifth grader Nyla Asad spoke about the "Green Team" and other student projects; fourth grader Delores Adams spoke about her family's participation and enjoyment of quarterly STEM activities, and fourth grader William Mansfield spoke about study trips.



2 of 3 06/11/2013 04:43 PM



Society of Innovators selects new members, fellows

Oct 18 2012 Previous Post << >> Next Post

GARY | Ivy Tech Community College Northwest and The Society of Innovators announced the 2012-13 Class of Fellows, Chanute Prize recipients and Members to be inducted at the eighth annual Innovators Induction Ceremony tonight at the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond.

At the induction ceremony, the region's Gerald I. Lamkin Fellow for Innovation and Service will also be amounced.

"The 8th Innovators Induction Ceremony will induct some of the most innovative 'thinkers, dreamers and doers' across Northwest Indiana." said Chancellor J. Guadalupe Valtierra said Chancellor J. Guadalupe Valtierra.

Inductees represent Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Starke counties. In addition to three individual and team members inducted previously, 12 new individual members and 15 new team members will be honored.

Six new Fellows Include Neal H. Haskell, St. Joseph's Coilege, Rensselaer; Gus Olympidis, Family Express; Olga Petryszyn, Re-MAX Affillates, Valparaiso; Pearl Prince, Frankle Woods McCullough Girls Academy, Gary; Eugene S. Smotkin, NuVant, Crown Point; and Gregg A. VanDusseldorp Sr., O mnitech Systems Inc., Valparaiso.

This year, there are two co-recipients for the Chanute Prize for Team Innovation. One is The Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation at Purdue University Calumet, represented by Chenn Q. Zhou, director of the Center. The other is the "S-in motion" Project of ArcelorMittal Global Research & Development Center in East Chicago, represented by Blake K. Zuidema, director of Automotive Product Applications.

The Following individuals are also being inducted as members into The Society of Innovators: Speros Batistatos, Marc Chase, Raymundo A. Garcia, Neal H. Haskell, Kassie Meeks, Olga Petryszyn; Pearl Prince, Dave Ryan, Eugene S. Smotkin, Anthony Thurman, Gregg A. VanDusseldorp Sr. and Harry J. Vande Veide III.

The following teams are also being inducted as members into The Society of Innovators: Alternative Energy Demonstration Team, Porter County Career and Tech Center; Franciscan Aliance Physician Team; Green Farms Agronomics & Mycology Team; Hospice Artisans, Hospice of the Calumet Area Team; INTAC 697 Team; Lake Hills STEM Magnet School Team, Michigan City; Michigan City Robotics #3936 Team; Multi-Specialty Navigation Surgery Suite, Methodist Hospitals Team; NIPSCO "IN-Charge" Electric Vehicle Team; NIPSCO Mobile Website Team; Park Prescriptions Program of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Team; Portage Township Schools Critical Values Design Team; "Rural and Rustic" Tourism Team; South Shore Arts/Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra Team; and Omnitech Systems Team, Valparaiso.

For more information, contact John Davies, assistant director of the Gerald I. Lamkin Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center and managing director of The Society, at (219) 981-1111 ext. 2292. Courtesy of the Times.

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Community

Lake Hills to Host Bird Festival on October 13

WRITTEN BY MICHIGAN CITY AREASCHOOLS

LAST UPDATED ON 12 OCTOBER 2012

A 54.

Lake Hills STEM Magnet School (201 Ferguson Road, Michigan City) invites familles, neighbors, and members of the community to attend its Bird Festival on Saturday, October 13, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

The event is free, and it will feature exhibits and special activities by the Audubon Society, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the Lubeznik Art Center, the Izaak Walton League and many others.



According to Lake Hills STEM Coordinator Shelley Deutscher, Bird Festival visitors will be "banded" as they enter the event, to simulate bird banding that scientists perform to track migration patterns. Both children and adults can then try their hand at a bird-related craft, learn about bird feeding, take a like to see local birds and their habitats, and view live birds that will be on display (including pigeons, chickens, geese, ducks, and others, courtesy of area 4-H

Special thanks to the following individuals/organizations, which are taking part in the Festival or are donating materials and expertisel

4-H Pigeon Club 4-H Poultry Club Brandt's Emporium Cub Scouts Friends of Indiana Dunes Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Indiana Turkey Federation International Friendship Gardens Izaak Walkion League, Chapter 7 Lake Hills Student Council Lake Hills Life Skills Club Lubeznik Center for the Arts Pioneer Lumber Potawatomi Audubon Society Purdue North Central Vet Club St. Joe Parks Safe Harbor Wild Birds Unlimited Wendy Smith, environmental educator Sandra Wilmore, bird banding expert



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After Earth showtimes

11:00 | 11:35 | 1:30 | 2:10 | 4:00 | 4:40 | 6:30 17:10 | 9:00 | 9:40

Epic showtimes

11:05 | 1:40 | 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20

Fast & Furious 6 showtimes

12:35 | 1:05 | 3:35 | 4:05 | 6:35 | 7:05 | 9:36 | 10:05

The Great Gatsby showtimes

11:45 | 3:00 | 6:15 | 9:35

Lake Hills to Host Bird Festival on October 13

OCTOBER 12, 2012 1:17 PM · CONTRIBUTED BY BETSY KOHN | MICHIGAN CITY SCHOOLS

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- Brandt's Emporium
- Cub Scouts
- Friends of Indiana Dunes
- Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
- Indiana Turkey Federation
- · International Friendship Gardens
- Izaak Walkton League, Chapter 7
- Lake Hills Student Council
- Lake Hills Life Skills Club
- Lubeznik Center for the Arts
- Pioneer Lumber
- Potawatomi Audubon Society
- Purdue North Central Vet Club
- St. Joe Parks
- Safe Harbor
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Wendy Smith, environmental educator
- Sandra Wilmore, bird banding expert

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News > Local

'Adopt-a-Beach' day at Washington Park a part of larger cleanup effort

Print Page

By Stephanie Kuschel Staff Writer

Published: Sunday, September 16, 2012 5:06 PM CDT

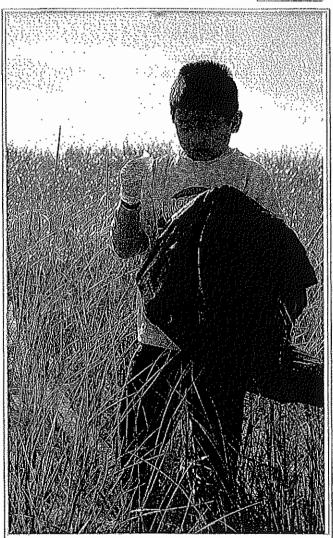
MICHIGAN CITY — Adopt-a-Beach volunteers in Washington Park on Saturday took part in the world's largest international volunteer effort to clean up coastal waterways and beaches.

Adopt-a-Beach events, like the one in Washington Park, are a part of a grassroots effort to support the international coastal cleanup efforts of The Ocean Conservancy, a nonprofit ocean action group, and its partnerships with national and regional nonprofits, which all support healthy marine ecosystems.

Over the past 25 years, through the efforts of these international partnerships, more than 9 million volunteers worldwide have cleaned up and recorded data for roughly 145 million pounds of trash found near bodies of water around the world, according to The Ocean Conservancy's website.

Shannon Eason, who coordinated the Washington Park Beach cleanup team for the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department, said volunteers recorded the types of litter they found on the beach to help provide research and statistics for the Alliance for the Great Lakes (AGL), a nonprofit organization that promotes the health of the great lakes and its neighboring ecosystems.

Eason said in addition to promoting greater awareness and appreciation for the beach, the cleanup was also meant to help educate the public about the types of issues facing the beach.



Hanson Hw ang, an eight-year-old from Michigan City, said he came to the beach with his mother because he cared about keeping the planet clean. Photo by Stephanie Kuschel

"People come out, see the kind of garbage that's on the beach and see where the problems are," Eason said. "... In Chicago, because so many cigarette butts were found on the beaches, people helped move forward laws that eventually banned smoking on Chicago beaches. And in Michigan ... after finding industrial waste on the beaches, they traced it back to a company that had been dumping it in the lake and were able to shut it down. ... Things like that come from people seeing what's going on at the beaches."

James Burden, who came to the event with a team of fellow employees, working under contract for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through TechLaw Inc., said he and his coworkers came to the event to show their support for the beach and the environment.

"If you use the beach, you should take care of it," Burden said. "And it's nice to get this done on a volunteer basis. ... It cuts costs for the city and keeps the beaches maintained without taking from tax money."

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News > Local

Michigan City High School receives school improvement grant

Print Page

By Lois Tomaszewski Staff Writer

Published: Wednesday, August 29, 2012 5:07 PM CDT

MICHIGAN CITY — A plan to improve Michigan City High School was one of nine selected to receive state funding, school officials announced at the board of trustees' meeting Tuesday.

The Innovative School Improvement Grant will provide \$298,000 to address students' math scores and grades, improve using department heads as mentors to teachers and providing support to freshmen who struggle, Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins told the board. "We are very pleased to have additional resources to support our efforts, because we believe our plan has the potential to make a real and lasting impact at our high school," Eason-Watkins said.

Michigan City Area Schools initially submitted applications for four schools. Elston, Niemann and Pine met the criteria for the selection process, which limited eligibility to lower-performing schools. The high school was the only one to make it through the selection process.

For the high school, the plan calls for improved supervision of teachers; additional professional development opportunities, especially in algebra; and instituting a freshman academy of 100 students, with a freshman attendance counselor and part-time academy director. This plan was one of nine out of 150 submitted to receive funding. "Special thanks to Xavier Botana, Jan Radford, MCHS Principal Lee Dabagia and Phyllis Stark for their work on this grant," Eason-Watkins said. "I would also like to acknowledge our algebra teachers and high school leadership team for making improvements at our high school."

This information was one of two positive pieces of news Eason-Watkins shared with the board. She also noted that Lake Hills Elementary School, a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math magnet school, received national recognition. The school has been included in a "best practices" database maintained by the American School Board Journal.

"Lake Hills was one of only 81 highly-scored programs selected for inclusion in the database this year, from among hundreds of applications reviewed by the National School Boards Association as part of its annual MAGNA Awards program," Eason-Watkins said. The schools included in the database serve as a resource to other schools and educators, with information on practices, solutions and new ideas.

"It is absolutely amazing (that the high school received the grant)," board member Jeffrey Jones said. "It's a testament to the hard work of the staff."

Jones also praised Lake Hills efforts, saying that the MAGNA awards designation was "shining a light" on efforts to improve Michigan City Schools. "this is national recognition of the efforts that have been going on with Michigan City Area Schools," he said.

In other action:

• Associate Superintendent Xavier Botana told the board that first day attendance counts showed 97 percent attendance at all schools. This year, 6,065 students were enrolled as of Aug. 22, the first day of school for students, with 5,911 students showing up. That is a slight decrease from last year's first day attendance total, which was 6,107. Botana told the board that these figures are preliminary. The official attendance count is taken in mid-September. "Last year we gained students between the first day of school and the official count," Botana said. "We are hoping we

will do that this year as well."

The district has also looked at the staffing projections and made some changes, including adding two new kindergarten classrooms at Lake Hills and Coolspring elementaries. A first grade position has also opened up at Knapp, but one position was eliminated at Marsh. These changes allowed all elementary teachers who were laid off at the end of the school year to be called back to work, Botana said.

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Students Mix Art with Science

in STEM Summer Camp @ PNC, 2012

The 120 area students taking part in the Purdue University North Central STEM Summer Camp @ PNC, 2012 are gaining a first-hand look at how Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (the STEM disciplines) are vital to their lives and a fundamental component of most everything they do.

The five-week camp brings young people, ages six to 12, to 15 to the PNC campus as part of the summer programming for the La Porte County Coalition of Youth Serving Agencies (YSA) including Imagination Station, Boys and Girls Club, Michigan City Parks and Recreation, Safe Harbor, Barker Woods and North Central Community Action Agencies in Michigan City. Camp is underwritten in part by Michigan City Enrichment Corp.

Each group traveled to PNC one morning a week for five weeks, with each week featuring a different theme exploring a different aspect of the STEM disciplines. With the entire PNC campus serving as a classroom, PNC faculty, staff and local professionals serve as instructors, presenting age-appropriate learning activities for the students. For many, the camp presented their first opportunity to visit to a college campus.

The camp drew to a close last week with the activity, "From the Ground Up or the Sky Down" with local artist and teacher Nancy Saxon. NIPSCO is sponsoring this week's activities.

"I believe art provides a perfect learning platform for STEM concepts," noted Saxon.

Saxon opened "From the Ground Up or the Sky Down" with a tour of the PNC campus to study its many large-scale sculptures and to analyze and discover what makes a sculpture visually balanced. Following this, the students are asked to apply their knowledge to create an individual work of sculpture.

Saxon explained that during this process the students combine imagination with engineering while choosing to create their sculpture from items such as wooden dowels, rocks, blocks, twine, wire and cardboard. The young artists will learn about structure as they consider how placing and connecting assorted materials will allow a lasting visually interesting composition.

"There are countless lessons to be learned in this project," noted Saxon. "Students test their own ideas in a group setting so that everyone learns from each other while they create totally individual works of art or science."

Saxon also thanked NIPSCO for its sponsorship. "I would like the community to know that this program would not be possible without the involvement of NIPSCO. Its contribution provides an exceptional week of learning by highly qualified instructors on a college campus. Learning experiences such as these change lives. Thanks to NIPSCO, dozens of children will have the opportunity to experience something wonderful."

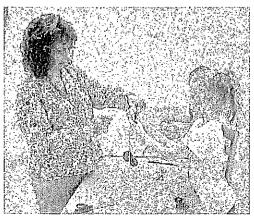
The camp curricula also featured:

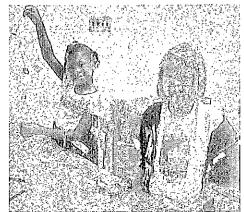
Dr. Kumara Jayasuriya, associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and associate professor of Mathematics, leading campers on an exploration of math.

Dr. David Pratt, associate professor of Education, teaching how helpful computers can be at providing virtual experiences to teach physics principles of the real world.

Dr. Joseph Schroer, assistant professor of Education, leading students in a fascinating examination of potential and kinetic energy while building different types of twisting and turning rollercoasters.

Joan Wisniewski, Potawatomi Audubon Society president and other members, introducing students to the eagle.







Students from the Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department enjoy creating their own sculptures during the "From the Ground Up or the Sky Down" activities offered as part of the Purdue University North Central Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Summer Camp.

THE Season 100 Street Weekly Newspaper Michigan City, IN 46360



Volume 28, Number 11 Thursday, March 22, 2012



Science teacher Alien Boone and third graders Jonathan Flemings and Natori Troutman use some of the Vernier Science devices to measure pH in liquid. (Photo by Riok A. Richards)

A good handyman knows the job is always easier with the right tools. Why should it be any different for teachers?

By themselves, teachers inspire and encourage children to learn. But when they're given tools they've never had the opportunity to use in the classroom, it's awe inspiring what they can do.

And it's taking place at Lake Hills STEM Magnet School in Michigan City, thanks to a \$10,000 scientific grant awarded to the school by Vernier Software & Technology of Beaverton, Ore. Lake Hills was one of only 10 elementary schools in the nation to receive the grant. In all, the company presented similar grants to 10 colleges and 10 high schools. The 30 grants were symbolic of Vernier's 30th anniversary.

Shelly Deutscher, a science teacher at Lake Hills, says she learned of the grant opportunity from school librarian Mary Gish. Deutscher filled out the application and sent it off, not expecting to hear anything.

"We figured it would be good experience for us for future grants as a way to get our thoughts down," says Deutscher. "We were totally surprised when we were selected."

Vernier is one of the nation's largest suppliers of equipment for laboratories and schools. It provides everything from temperature and pressure monitoring devices to weather stations and sophisticated measuring devices for college and professional laboratories.

Deutscher says that when Lake Hills learned it had been chosen the first question everybody had was "What now?" News Dispatch 3/20/12

Lake Hills celebrates learning



Photo by Lois Tomaszewski

Lakesha Roberts and her daughter London use their imagination and creativity at one of the activity tables at Lake Hills Elementary School's Celebration of Learning event on Monday. Parents and students were invited to have supper, visit more than 15 tables of fun activities, such as making a lava lamp or egg boat, and shop at the Scholastic Book Fair. On display were students' class work, and there were opportunities for parents to find out more about their children's progress. The school had a large turnout for the showcase.



This hand-held monitor from Vernier is the heart of the equipment provided in a \$10,000 grant to Lake Hills Elementary. Different probes and sensors can be attached, allowing it to perform a variety of scientific examinations. (Photo by Rick A. Richards)

things they drink. Originally the experiment called for students to measure water and milk, but Jonathan says the students added Coke and Monster energy drink to the list.

"We all thought Coke would be the highest," says Jonathan. "We were wrong. It was Monster." But it was only a little higher, says Natori.

Since the experiment, Natori and Jonathan both say they've cut back on the amount of Coke and Monster they drink.

That left Boone beaming. "That's a good example of what learning is all about. This is a change to take learning out into the real world." In the spring, Boone and his students will take some of the devices outside to do experiments on soil and plants.



Science leacher Allen Boone and third grader Jonathan Flemings set up an experiment to measure the pH of water. (Photo by Rick A. Richards)

Continued on Page 4

CASUAL CHEF CAFÉ



PUMPERNICKEL INN

CASUAL, adj., relaxed, informal, homelike

CHEF, n., magician who creates fantastic meals rife with simplicity, succulence and professional care.

CAFÉ, n., dining establishment, gathering place, <u>not</u> <u>fast food</u> or pretentious

"THE SOUP PLACE"

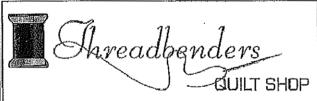
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In Case Of Emergency, Dial





This table full of scientific equipment, including a weather station, is part of a \$10,000 grant from Vernier to Lake Hills Elementary. Among the equipment is a magnetic field sensor, current probe, temperature probe, a hand-field microscope, a motion detector, gas pressure sensor and a pH sensor. (Photo by Rick A. Richards)

Computer Grant Continued from Page1

What devices did the school need for its science program? How would it choose which devices to buy? Even though Vernier provided a catalog, Deutscher says the choices were overwhelming.

"Vernier was great, though. They came to the school and helped us put together our order," says Deutscher, who adds that input from the faculty was an important part of the process.

Even though Lake Hills received the same kind of equipment in use in colleges and universities, the items are being used by second through fifth graders.

"We looked at each specific grade level and what might help meet its needs," says Science Deutscher. "It's also been a big help that Purdue North Central has offered support to help us get our curriculum up and going."

When boxes and boxes of equipment arrived just before Christmas, teachers and school administrators dug in like Santa Claus had arrived early.

"Everyone was talking at once," says Deutscher. "What should we do? How do we set our labs up?"

Once the excitement died down, Deutscher says the process focused on core science areas at Lake Hills – life sciences, physical science, engineering/ technology, and earth/space.

"We have been teaching these subjects all along, but the equipment helps us investigate them more thoroughly. It's a great tool for the kids," says Deutscher.

Once the equipment arrived, representatives from Vernier returned to Lake Hills and provided in-service training for teachers. They reviewed each item and showed teachers how to use it and how to integrate it into the classroom.

Science teacher Allen Boone says he was thrilled to receive the equipment. "It enhances learning and it shows our students the latest technology. They're using equipment some of them might not otherwise see until they get to college."

As Boone worked with two of his third graders, he says the equipment offers them "the dream of being whatever they want to



Science teacher Allen Boone holds a monitor outfitted with a temperature probe that is accurate to within a tenth of a degree. (Photo by Rick A. Richards)

be."

Natori Troutman, 9, and Jonathan Flemings, 9, are experienced hands at using some of the equipment. They've already conducted experiments using a pH meter, temperature gauge and a device that measure the reflectivity of light.

"It's really neat," says Jonathan. "It makes me want to study and go to college."

Natori and Jonathan say their favorite experiment so far was measuring the pH in the everyday



Photos by Deborah Sederberg

Third-grade teachers from Lake Hills Magnet STEM Elementary School, Cindy Post (from left), Susan Poehl and Lanette Butz examine new electronic equipment connected to a new weather station. The equipment was purchased with a grant from Vernier technology which allowed school officials to select \$10,000 worth of Vernier technology.

re from the outdoors

Lake Hills students will use \$10,000 grant to operate their own weather station

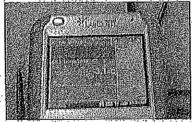
By Deborah Sederberg Staff Writer .

MICHIGAN CITY — It looks a little like a small food processor with measuring spoons, all about tablespoon size, whirling around on their sides.

But that device is an important at Lake Hills Magnet STEM Elementary School. STEM refers Magnet STEM Elementary School. to science, technology, engineering and math.

lum, similar to other elementary schools, includes reading and writing, social studies, art and other subject areas, but at Lake Hills, the other study areas include STEM as well.

Students read about science and math, write about science and math and they might write dramas about science and math ing dramas about weather, which or scientists and mathemati- here, on the southern shore of cians.



part of a \$10,000 weather sta- A screen attached to a probe indicates tion, which will be installed soon the temperature of a glass of ice water - 3.1 degrees Celsius - at Lake Hills.

That's where Shelley At Lake Hills, the curricu- Deutscher comes into the picture. Deutscher is the STEM coordinator for Lake Hills, explained Connie Bachmann, principal of Lake Hills.

"I work with teachers to help them build the STEM subjects into various other subject areas," she said.

Soon, students might be writ-Lake Michigan, is a natural dra-

Thanks to a grant from Vernier Software and Technology, Lake Hills is one of just 10 schools in the country serving grades kindergarten through eighth grades to receive \$10,000 in Vernier technology.

Lake Hills officials chose to invest in the weather station.

A variety of probes will allow students to measure temperatures of soil, ice water and in all probability, Lake Michigan. Those things that look like tablespoons will measure wind.

Software from the outside components (the whole food processor-like piece) will be used to take readings from outdoors and to keep records of the readings.

Before long, the information from the weather station will be broadcast during morning announcements at Lake Hills.

Teachers will learn how to

Please see OUTDOORS, A3

was kicked in to gain en- entered, po. try into the home.

The suspect was de- something the Police said Noble Town-scribed as white and in out," said Boyd.

d Woodruff work followiday hiatus. eting sewer ring Street 11th.

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OUTDOORS

CONTINUED from Page A1

work with the equipment through a training webinar with Vernier, said Deutscher.

This is a terrific opportunity for our students," said Deutscher about the weather station and the grant that made the weather station possible.

"We're really excited about having this quality cutting-edge equipment; especially in an elementary school," she said.

The Michigan Township Board will meet at 5 p.m. Jan. 25 at the township office at 2601 E. Michigan Blvd. Anyone needing special arrangements to attend the meeting should call the township office at 5201. ·

"people vote their con- employment their district."

doing the job I was elected to do. I expect people to do their job and that means getting into their seats and doing their job."

Bosma said he is confident he will be able to lock in the votes needed to pass ish World War II motto he the same issue. has adopted for the rightto-work battle.

Republicans the first make Indiana state in more than a decade to enact right-to-work

about his party is that legislation, which bans the right-to-work measure The minority party wants union fees for representa- weeks from now. to turn this into a politi- tion. Supporters claim it cal war. But people here would bring more jobs to and-stop approach to stall should be representing Indiana, where the unem- the measure further, Re-Dermody is not on the back up to around 9 per- with fines, he said. committee that is hearing cent in the recent months. the bill this morning, but Opponents say it is a move in one day be gone two is on the Ways and Means aimed at breaking unions days, come in a day be committee which handles in Indiana and claim it fiscal issues. "I'm just here would depress wages for all workers.

The measure is expected to find an easy path reach Gov. Mitch Daniels' through the state Senate, desk before the Feb. 5 Suwhere Republicans out- per Bowl in Indianapolis.

Republicans \$1,000-per-day fines. for orities for the 2012 session the measure. "We'll just prolonged absences after and appeared in television keep calm and carry on," a five-week walkout by ads pushing the measure. he said, echoing the Brit- Democrats last year over Last week, the NFL Play-

want to Democrats stay in session workers' rights."

contracts could make it to the goverscience and their district. that require mandatory nor's desk as soon as two

> But if they use a startployment rate has crept publicans will be ready

"So if their idea is, come gone two, that's not going to fly for very long at all," he said.

The measure number Democrats 37-13. Daniels has made the laimposed bor bill one of his top priers Association called the Rep. Jerry Torr, R-Car- bill "a political ploy demel, said that if House signed to destroy basic

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. Her loving face I hope to see again, Though the days have passed away, Sleep on, dear wife, and take your rest. They miss you most who loved you best.

Husband Arthur and Children Scott, Kristle, and Marie and Grandchildren

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News > Local

Building a roller coaster: Lake Hills students compete in the 'Great Thrill Ride Build Off'

Print Page

By Lois Tomaszewski Staff Writer

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MICHIGAN CITY — Ask the fifth grade science students at Lake Hills Elementary about roller coasters and they will tell you about gravity, friction and kinetic energy, complicated scientific concepts brought to life by building a model roller coaster.

Science teacher Allen Boone signed his students up to compete in the national "Great Thrill Ride Build Off," sponsored by Cedar Point Amusement Park and K'Nex toys. It is an effort to promote the park's Science Week. Five winning groups are selected to display their model at the park, and to win tickets and K'Nex building sets.

The contest is open to students in sixth grade through high school. That could be a problem for the students at Lake Hills. The fifth graders, however, are being allowed to enter because the school is a magnet school. Boone said he is waiting to hear whether his students will be allowed to win even though they are younger than the rules allow.

But whatever that decision may be, the students have already won by learning both scientific concepts as well as life skills including problem solving and team work. With each new twist and turn, students encountered glitches and had to figure out how to correct the problem by increasing velocity, minimizing friction and capitalizing on gravity. No motors can be used to propel the 8,000 piece model, which if built in real life would be 320 feet tall.



Fifth grade students at Lake Hills Elementary work on building a scale roller coaster as part of a national competition sponsored by K-NEX and Cedar Point Amusement Park. At work are: (in front) Simone Gill, (next row, from left) Makila Fritz, Jennifer Cardenas, (in back, from left) Rodrigo Serrano, Elton Poe and Michael Haw thorne.

Students had to design the roller coaster, called the STEM Devil, a nod to their school and a reference to what would surely be a white-knuckle ride if the coaster was actually built. The name was selected by student vote Tuesday from several possibilities, ranging from a student's name to the Scream Machine and Twister of Fate.

"We had to build it from the ground up," Boone said. "We had no idea where it was going."

Students began building the model in October, working one to two hours per week. Boone said he hopes to wrap up the project in the next few weeks. Five photographs of the model, a video showing how it works and a 500-word essay which "deals with the science of it" must be

submitted by April 1.

"The students have been tremendously excited about the project," Boone said.

Even though there is still time, Boone and his students are ready to move on. The next scientific project is designing a robotic hand out of the same K'Nex building sets.

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Magnet schools show the promise of our kids' future

By Dr. Vidya S. Kora For The News-Dispatch

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In an effort to improve student achievement and to provide more choices to students and parents within the public school system, the Michigan City Area Schools started two magnet programs last year at the elementary level.

The magnet program at Lake Hills is devoted to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and the magnet program at Pine School is devoted to visual and performing arts.

I had the privilege of visiting these two schools recently and meeting their outstanding principals, Mrs. Connie Bachmann at Lake Hills and Mr. Charles Kaiser, Jr. at Pine School, the STEM Coordinator Mrs. Shelley Deutscher, the fine arts coach Mrs. Donald Beck and some teachers and students. I was impressed by the dedication, commitment and passion of these individuals and of the many outstanding teachers and leaders at these two buildings.

In a global economy, for our community and country to be competitive, we need STEM programs. By linking science, technology and math in a coordinated fashion, this program helps children become problem solvers, innovators, inventors and logical thinkers.

Who knows, we may have a Steve Jobs or a Bill Gates in the making at Lake Hills.

In difficult economic times, arts education tends to get cut at schools. But education in visual and performing arts helps students connect the right side of the brain with the left side and helps improve test scores while teaching such valuable life skills as developing a vision, to persist, to be playful and to learn from their mistakes.

Since these magnet programs were rolled out, parent participation has increased, which is truly a blessing. The support from parent groups, community groups like the Lubeznik Center, the artists' community in Tryon Farms and the various environmental groups has been remarkable.

The one partnership that deserves a special mention is the one these programs have at Purdue North Central. I want to express my gratitude to Chancellor Dworkin and his faculty and students for their involvement, encouragement and participation.

All these wonderful changes would not have been possible without the support of my colleagues on the school board and the leadership of Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins, her Associate Superintendent, Mr. Xavier Botana, their leadership team at the administration building and the support staff at all the buildings.

In an environment of limited resources, this team has been innovative in allocating resources, recruiting and retaining good teachers, focusing on their professional development and creating vital community partnerships.

I am grateful to everyone who has been involved in creating these outstanding magnet programs and I am hopeful that we will extend these magnet programs to the middle school level next year.

I fully recognize that Michigan City Area Schools has a long way to go to achieve its full potential but touring these two magnet schools recently makes me optimistic about the future.

Dr. Vidya S. Kora is a Michigan City Area Schools board member.

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