

NEWS RELEASE

PHOTO OP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEB. 1, 2017

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

**LIBERTYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT 70
INTRODUCES NEW HANDS-ON, STEM-FOCUSED
SCIENCE PROGRAM**

Training already has begun for Libertyville School District 70 kindergarten through fifth grade teachers in a new hands-on, exploratory science and engineering focused science curriculum called STEMscopes.

Elementary teachers throughout the district first field-tested STEMscopes at the beginning of the school year, said Erik Youngman, District 70's director of curriculum, instruction and assessment. "They appreciated that the structure of the program helped engage students through hands-on activities and rigorous labs that require students to actively problem solve and learn collaboratively."

The new curriculum is aligned with Next Generation Science Standards, which are national learning standards for science curriculum adopted by the state of Illinois two years ago. Needing to adopt a new program to address new standards, Youngman said teachers favored STEMscopes because the program "provides opportunities for student engagement and offers a variety of online teacher materials to help meet student needs."

In the new curriculum, one of the fifth grade activities focuses on Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems by asking the question – "Why would adding a new fish to an aquarium cause the other fish to become sick?" Youngman said. "The student is expected to develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment and generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem."

Teachers supported STEMscopes because "students will experience and think about science rather than reading about science," he said.

It's not unusual for there to be lag-time from when standards are first adopted to when textbooks are available for school districts, Youngman said.

"The development of science programs by publishing companies typically takes a few years if done thoroughly, so Libertyville District 70 delayed review of science programs and focused initial science professional development on the New Illinois Science Standards, science and engineering

practices such as developing and using models, and crosscutting concepts such as patterns and cause and effect,” he said.

STEMscopes is an online science curriculum from Accelerate Learning. Each lesson includes a series of investigations and activities to bring science to life for students so they can “learn by doing” and fully engage in the scientific process, Youngman said.

“Teaching and learning with STEMscopes science activities will be a progressive shift that greatly enhances the amount of time students are actively doing science rather than reading about it aligned with grade level science expectations in Illinois,” he said. “The rigor of the science experiences will prepare and inspire students for future learning and careers.”

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(Editor’s note: There’s still time to take photos of the toys at Highland Middle School, or contact Mr. Meekhof and capture the reaction of his students getting their toys.)

LIBERTYVILLE EIGHTH-GRADERS CREATE TOYS DESIGNED BY HIGHLAND PARK SECOND-GRADERS IN COLLABORATIVE ART PROJECT

Highland Middle School eighth grade sculpture students are following design dreams of 7- and 8-year-olds and creating new toys that a teacher says could one day sell on the open market.

“Yes, some of their prototypes are that good that they could sell in stores, if it ever got to that,” says Cindi Sartain, the middle school art teacher for Libertyville School District 70. But that’s a pretty big “if.”

Sartain and second grade teacher David Meekhof, of Wayne Thomas Elementary School in Highland Park, met at an art show and briefly talked about collaborating classwork. Now in its second year, Meekhof’s students design toys in their heads, write down the requirements, sketch an image or two, and then ship off their requests to Sartain’s Libertyville students. The project was so popular in North Shore School District 112 that the third of three second grade classrooms joined this year. That made for about 60 designs that needed to be turned into life by Sartain’s 20 middle school students.

“We thought it would be fun to do something outside of the district where Highland students wouldn’t run into their younger siblings or siblings of friends,” Sartain said of the unique project. “It’s very involved.”

Meekhof’s students come up with the original toy idea and need to describe it in words, draw an image of what it might look like, and select action words that they think would describe the toy. Three pages of thoughts are all the HMS students have to go on.

“This has been an incredible authentic learning project where students have been actively engaged,” said Meekhof. “This has been an incredible authentic learning project where students have been actively engaged. When a child sees his or her two-dimensional design evolve into a three-dimensional prototype, there is such powerful ownership that can’t be duplicated.”

The final projects will be packed and taken to the Highland Park School this month, Sartain said.

The students communicate throughout the project, Meekhof said. “A recent highlight was when each second grader received a letter from their ‘toy designer,’” he noted. “The letters featured updates on the toy prototypes and students responded with letters of their own.”

For the middle school students, they need to consider safety, make sure the toy won’t break on the second or third time out of a box, and be able to fit the toy into a shoebox that they specially designed to promote the toy.

“There’s a lot of problem-solving, the students have to think ahead, think it through,” Sartain noted.

While material to create toys was vast last year, this year students had to use material on hand, which included papier-mâché, cardboard, tinfoil and other inexpensive supplies.

“My class also watches a video from IKEA on making toys,” Sartain added, nothing that just making the toy is only one step. Students also need to design packaging and think about how they would market the toy.

“The eighth-graders also think about quality and the audience, isn’t it always about the customer?”

For Meekhof’s second-graders, “our plan is to extend learning by having students read about toys long ago and comparing them to the toys of today, interview a grandparent or parent about toys they grew up with and reporting in class, create stories with our toys as the main characters, and establish a pricing structure to determine the sales price of our toy designs.”

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PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

The Highland Middle School student talent show will be held at 3:45 p.m. on **Feb. 2** at the school, and will run until about 5 or 5:30 p.m. at the school, 310 W. Rockland Road, Libertyville.

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

The Winter Elementary Orchestra Concert for all fourth and fifth orchestra students will be held at 7 p.m. on **Feb. 2** at Butterfield School, 1441 W. Lake St., Libertyville.

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

Chemists will help Copeland Manor fifth-graders learn about chemistry by using light sticks for a Glow It Up event in a program called Kids & Chemistry. Copeland chemist parents will help fifth-graders with special chemistry kits purchased by the school from the American Chemical Society. The project explores chemical reactions that release energy in the form of light, known as chemiluminescence. Parent volunteers will begin with the demonstration that uses a luminol mixture and an oxidizer to start a chemical reaction that glows. The students will perform three set of experiments between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. in the classrooms on **Feb. 3** at the school, 801 S. Seventh St., Libertyville.

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

The Adler Park School Winter Carnival will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on **Feb. 4** at the school, 1740 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville. The Gator Raffle also will be held during the event.

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

The Winter Band Concert for all elementary school students will be held at 7 p.m. on **Feb. 7** at Butterfield School, 1441 W. Lake St., Libertyville. This concert involves all fourth and fifth grade band students.

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

Highland Middle School eighth graders will take a field trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie on **Feb. 8**. Students study the Holocaust and World War II as part of the eighth grade curriculum. The field trip supplements the experience.

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

The Highland Winter Orchestra Concert for all Highland orchestra students will be held at 7 p.m. on **Feb. 9** at Highland Middle School, 310 W. Rockland Road, Libertyville.

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

(Editor's Note: This always makes a great photo!)

Adler Park School kindergartners will celebrate the 100th day of school during the week of Feb. 6, dressing up as 100 year old for the day on Friday, **Feb. 10**. The school is located at 1740 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville.

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 847-362-9695

The Butterfield Fun Fair with a carnival theme will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on **Feb. 11** at the school, 1441 W. Lake St., Libertyville. The fair will feature games, food and entertainment. There also will be a raffle.

For more information, call
the appropriate school involved

To celebrate Valentine's Day, students in all Libertyville Elementary District 70 schools for students in kindergarten through fifth-grade will hold classroom parties beginning between **1:15 and 1:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12**. The schools involved in holding the parties include Adler Park, Butterfield, Copeland Manor and Rockland.

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

Highland Middle School seventh-graders will visit Libertyville High School between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on **Feb. 15** to view a special art gallery show.

For more information, call

Robin Kollman at 362-9695

An all-school assembly on science and the history of space travel will be held at 9:30 a.m. by Moonflight Adventures on **Feb. 21** at Adler Park School, 1740 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville. Veteran space flight docent (Adler Planetarium in Chicago) Bill Andrews will relive the true-life story of the legendary Apollo 13 mission to the moon through slides and videos.

****NEW**

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

Rockland fifth grade boys and girls basketball teams will be divided up and face off against one another during a special event called "Rock the House" at 6 p.m. on **Feb. 22** at Highland Middle School, 310 W. Rockland Road, Libertyville. The school's Choir Club will sing the National Anthem and school cheerleaders will be on hand to raise school spirit. "It's sure to be a great time by all who attend to support our fifth graders," said physical education teacher Mike Kolar. "This year we will be sporting great character and having a blast watching the Rockland Girls and Boys fifth grade basketball teams square off in the annual event."

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

The Highland Symphonic Band for all Highland Symphonic students will be held at 7 p.m. on **Feb. 23** at Highland Middle School, 310 W. Rockland Road, Libertyville.

For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

Highland Middle School's Speech Club will compete in the annual conference Speech Festival held on **Feb. 25** at Highland Middle School.

More than 20 Highland Middle School students in sixth-eighth grade have been memorizing and practicing powerful literary pieces during Speech Club for the event. At the festival, students will perform memorized monologues, poetry, speeches and other literary pieces before a panel of judges. The students are scored on their expression and fluency, as well as memorization. Highland students traditionally obtain strong placement in the competition, frequently placing first or second, said teacher and coach Jenni Dunlap.

For more information, call

Robin Kollman at 362-9695

Highland Middle School's eighth grade students in the "Construct It Produce It" fine arts elective class will put on a live exhibition of the historical costumes they have created from 3:05 to 3:30 p.m. on **Feb. 24th** at the school, 310 W. Rockland Ave., Libertyville. Students in the clothing class will also model their creations at the live exhibition-taking place in the Consumer Education room 135.

"We will be showcasing outfits inspired by different American decades with the theme "Through the Ages's," said consumer science teacher Robin VanDyke. "The students have been making costumes from scratch that might be highlighted in the HMS Spring Musical, Spamalot.... hence how we came up with the name Through the Age's."

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THREE HIGHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAMS

RECEIVE HIGHEST HONORS IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

A Highland Middle School team recently received Highest Honors and a sixth grader, Sam Lam, received a perfect score during a recent competition with WordMasters Challenge.

More than 150,000 students compete annually in the WordMasters Challenge, a national vocabulary competition. Competing in the difficult Blue Division, the eighth grade team scored an impressive 183 points out of a possible 200 points in the first of three meets this year, placing eighth in the nation.

In the Blue Division, Lam was one of 26 sixth-graders nationwide to receive perfect scores. Other Highland Middle School students receiving individual outstanding results included Cris Montero, Ellie Kuntz, Lily Hieronymus, Maxwell Lindsey and Yanni Wilcox.

Highland coaches for the competitions are Jill Conley, Kristie Kubala, Alison Prochaska, Brianne Smith, Carey Fox, Jenni Dunlap, Kristen Palic, and Priya Varghese.

The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking that first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words (considerably harder than grade level), and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships.

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For more information, call
Robin Kollman at 362-9695

**LIBERTYVILLE ELEMENTARY DISTRICT 70
PLANS FOR SUMMER SCHOOL 2017**

As temperatures rise to the 30s and 40s this winter, planning is underway for the popular Libertyville Elementary District 70 summer school Session with registration set to open on March 5.

Summer school for this year will be held from June 12 through July 13, Monday through Thursday, at Highland Middle School 310 W. Rockland Road, and –new this year- Copeland Manor School at 801 S. Seventh St., both in Libertyville. An Open House will be held June 8.

Adler Park physical education teacher and long-time summer school principal Gerry Carollo will move up to Summer School Director this year and add Highland Middle School special education teacher Amy Morales as principal.

“I’m excited for another fun-filled summer,” said Carollo. “I’m very proud of the balance between academics and exploration our classes offer. There is really something for every student, every grade..”

Students entering second through eighth grades in the fall will attend summer school at Highland, while younger children in pre-kindergarten, pre-first grade, and daily Spanish instruction, will attend the Copeland Manor elementary school.

Busing will be available for students to match school hours from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. Busing information also will be posted on the summer school website.

Summer school classes will be posted on-line at the district web site, www.d70schools.org/summerschool as of Feb. 24. The link to register also will be located on the summer school website.

While course offerings are being developed, some of the popular classes offered every year include building with Legos, ball games, cheerleading, and floor hockey.

District residents may begin registering on March 5 and end on May 26.

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Robin Kollman at 362-9695

HIGHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL SELECTS “THE SPORTS SHED” AS SCHOOLWIDE FUNDRAISER FOR 2016-17

Highland Middle School students selected The Sports Shed, which collects sports equipment to distribute in under-resourced areas – including Libertyville, as the schoolwide, yearlong charity for the 2016-17 school year.

“The Sports Shed makes it possible for all children in under-resourced and at-risk situations to participate in organized sports,” according to Highland Middle School eighth-grade Language Arts teacher and HMS Charity Committee member Kristen Palic. The thinking is that if children are busy with organized sports, there won’t be any time for gangs or violence. The group also assists programs with limited funding, such as Lambs Farm in Libertyville.

“Their mission is to place quality sports gear into the hands of children in the Chicago area who need a chance at experiencing the life-long benefits of sports and physical fitness,” Palic added. “The Sports Shed sources valuable sports gear and then distributes it on a needs basis to under-resourced schools and athletic programs. “

Every year, Highland staff recommends six charities to be considered for the yearlong, schoolwide fundraising project, Palic said. This year, student service secretary Katie Murphy suggested The Sports Shed. Students then voted on the nominations, selecting The Sports Shed.

A charity committee comprised of student council representatives, teachers, and school administrators meet monthly to plan fundraising events, coordinate with The Sports Shed, and discuss how to best raise student awareness and involvement.

Fundraising already is underway with proceeds from this year's student versus staff volleyball tournament, the eighth grade dance, the student talent show, and a school movie night going towards a fundraising goal of \$10,000. Last year, the school raised more than \$9,000 for the locally based Feed My Starving Children. The school also has raised money for Orphans of the Storm, Camp I Am Me, and have built a piggery for a school in Africa with the COVE.

Recently, a fundraiser at Culver’s restaurant brought in more than \$500 for The Sports Shed.

Palic said The Sports Shed helps school districts or programs that cannot afford equipment to keep their sports programs running. They also provide equipment for non-profit groups and youth groups. The Sports Shed serves programs throughout the Chicago area, she noted, including schools and programs in “North Chicago, Waukegan, Barrington, Elgin,

Zion, and even Lambs Farm, here in Libertyville.”

Look for other school fundraisers to help The Sports Shed in the upcoming Valentine candy-grams and an all-school dance.

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Robin Kollman at 362-9695

**HIGHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM
COMPETES AT ROCKFORD**

Highland Middle School Science Olympiad JV and Varsity team members recently participated at the Rockford Christian Invitational, on January 14. The students participated in 23 science events, including laboratory and engineering topics. The next competition is February 11, at Grayslake Middle School.

Students competing on the Science Olympiad teams include Styler Allen, Gabe Banek, Erin Benton, Rebekah Benton, Calvin Blohm, Gavin Buier, Dino Bougiotopoulos, Lily Ervine, Nathanael Herman, Katelyn Jacobs, Cody Klocke, Debjani Maitra, Chad Matulenko, Sam Otto, Olivia Powell, Lawrence Wang, and Madison Wilson. The students are coached by HMS science teachers Jasper Liu, Angie McCarthy, and Tara Oshinski.

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**COPELAND MANOR STUDENTS
TO BE PUBLISHED IN POETRY BOOK**

Several Copeland Manor fourth-graders will have their poems published in an anthology called A Celebration of Young Poets this fall.

“Another collection of wordsmiths are emerging and being recognized for their insights and ideas shared through poetry with Creative Communication,” said teacher Ann Livermore who makes the extra effort to submit their work for the contest that is nationwide.

Selected to appear in the book publication for Fall 2017, and the name of their work are: Gianna Amidei “Christmas Wonderland,” Kendyl Roberts “The Month of Christmas,” Ryan Andrews “Christmas,” Angeleis Barnott “What Is School?,” Morgan Short “Icy Wonderland,” Tyler Sherman “Wintertime,” Avery Maslic “Long Winter Day,” Brendan Hoch “Christmas

Winter Joy,” Ella Felinczak “Santa's Watching,” Parker Johnson “Christmas Joy,” and Cole Eiserman “Christmas Cheers.”

“It is an honor and privilege to encourage students to share their thoughts and ideas through their writing as well as help them to be heard by others,” said Livermore.

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