Lyme STEM News

February 3, 2013

Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

Families explored a variety of puzzles made by local resident, Ray Kimball.

A high school chemistry student assists a younger student with making polymer "snow".

Holiday Themed Family STEM Night

Lyme Central School will hosted a holiday themed STEM night on December 16th. Families enjoyed a variety of games, puzzles, and hands-on activities, providing great fun and entertainment for attendees while supporting and encouraging STEM learning.

The next Family STEM Night is being planned in conjunction with the Lyme Central School Science Fair on March 6, 2014.

Hands-on Learning!

Cornell University's Institute for Biology Teachers (CIBT) provides a vast array of training opportunities for teachers and laboratory activity kits to support hands-on student learning.

In January, 4th and 5th grade students explored the use of microscopes. Topics studied included magnification, optics, basic procedures involved with observing samples with microscopes, and preparing wet mount slides. The current lab engages students in an exploration of the differences between plant and animal cells.

Students enjoy weekly hands-on experiences that reinforce classroom learning and build problem solving skills. Third grade students recently explored making volcanoes using baking soda and vinegar. Students were thoroughly engaged in the challenge to identify the correct proportion of ingredients to maximize the eruption. These students will soon engage in "Measurement Olympics" to develop a better understanding of the use of measurement tools.

In January, Mrs. Kristen Van Orden, Lyme STEM Coordinator, attended the CIBT Workshop for New and Pre-Service Teachers at Cornell University. The CIBT program has provided opportunities for teachers to work with Cornell staff to develop, test, create, and implement a variety of laboratory activities in their classrooms.

Fun Free Online Learning Opportunities

Thinking Blocks Model Your Math Problems

Math practice in a fun game-like format. Students can label and manipulate visual models such as tape diagrams used in Common Core math modules. www.thinkingblocks.com

Free games that make learning fun.

www.sumdog.com

Coolmath-Games.com
Come for the games... Stay for the lessons!

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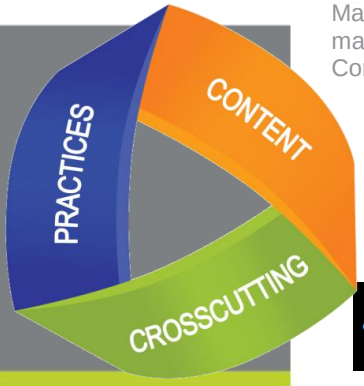

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Fort Drum RISE (Rural Initiative for STEM Excellence)

Alexandria Bay, Belleville Henderson, Copenhagen, Lyme, LaFargeville, and Sackets Harbor schools, Clarkson University and the Jefferson-Lewis BOCES, will enhance the STEM achievement of all students in grades 7-12 by enriching learning opportunities for students in STEM related areas.

Aligned with Next Generation Science Standards, the six-district consortium will

- provide directed, enhanced educational opportunities to students in STEM areas
- apply professional development to ensure that all students are prepared for advanced STEM coursework
- coordinate the provision of advanced coursework, professional development and materials sharing
- train teachers and staff to promote the transition to college and careers
- provide STEM enrichments for students and outreach to families
- establish Aspire programs in each of the targeted schools to support college/career planning
- provide support to families as they navigate college applications and financing

Initial grant implementation efforts are focused on planning opportunities for students and staff. Additional courses to support the needs of our students in STEM areas will be coming to the districts in online, blended, distance-learning, and on site instruction formats beginning this summer.

Excitement abounds!

Students built structures with toothpicks and holiday gumdrops, then tested their abilities to hold weight.

Experimenting with baking soda and vinegar volcanoes is fun!

ENGINEERING DESIGN

THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT YOUR FUTURE IS TO DESIGN IT.

Cornell University
Cornell Institute for Biology Teachers