

DISTRICT 303



eNEWS



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June 21, 2019

Corron Egg Drop Experiment

Corron 5th grade students in Mr. Robinson's class applied what they learned in their PLTW forces unit about gravity, air pressure, air resistance, and momentum to design and construct a model that protected an egg (intended to represent the human brain) during a 20-foot drop called the "Egg Drop Challenge."

"Your only goal is to keep the egg safe," instructed Mr. Robinson. Students got into groups and designed their models before using a variety of materials to construct them. Each team received the same materials that would be used for construction - a small piece of cardboard, 8 popsicle sticks, 1 meter of masking tape, 2 sheets of construction paper, 1 plastic bag, 1 styrofoam cup, 30cm of string and 10cm of wire. Students could also use rubber bands, straws, cotton balls, tissue paper, and aluminum foil.

Based on what they learned by testing their models, students modified their initial designs and thought about how to best protect the egg without wasting materials. They added padding and cushioning to soften the fall, secured the base of the egg more tightly, and incorporated popsicle sticks and straws to slow down the fall of the egg.

"We decided to make ours look like a box because our idea was basically a bicycle helmet. On a helmet you have a nice hard outside and the inside is softer and more compact," said Jack. "If it falls to the side it can still be safe, but with another design the egg can just fall out and crack," added Lucas as he compared their model to their classmates' flat-base designs with a cup in the center without protection around it.

On June 6, 5th graders put their models to the test. As Mr. Robinson dropped the models one by one, students collected data such as if the egg survived the fall, the duration of the fall, the materials used and why they think certain models were successful while others were not.

During the experiment, students clapped for the ones who were successful, eliciting many "oohs" and "wows" as a few eggs fell out of their contraptions and still didn't crack. Other models were not as successful, which resulted in the egg having to be scraped off the pavement, all in the name of science.



Lincoln Elementary School-Wide Writing Celebration



Lincoln Elementary welcomed parents and family members to their School-Wide Writing Celebration on June 6, where families had an opportunity to visit their student's classroom and learn about their writing portfolios and projects.

Students' portfolios contained a compilation of writing assignments done throughout the year, ranging from poems and stories to class magazines with informative articles and digital presentations about the topics students learned in class.

"I cannot believe the progress they've made," commented Karen Lando, grandmother to a 1st

grader. "I love this school and the support from the staff and parents because you really feel it when you come into the school. Their support makes a difference and you can see it in the progress students make."

While 1st grade students in Mrs. Harmon's class featured a "shoe" project based on their animal and habitat research, Mrs. Klotz's 2nd grade class compiled their poems and stories into a book, complete with a "meet the author" section and students' autobiographies and pictures. "I can see that my writing is so much better now and I can spell more words!" exclaimed a 3rd grader as he reflected on his writing.

Third grade students shared their animal and travel presentations using their Chromebooks and 4th grade students created informative presentations based on their social studies class and history research about the U.S. And to culminate their writing, Mrs. McConkey's 5th grade students compiled their writing assignments into a class magazine, which included informative articles, personal poems, and news stories, making the magazine a true reflection of what they learned in class and the improvements they made.

Professional Development Courses for Staff Members

District 303 offers a multitude of professional learning opportunities for staff members, both during the school year and in the summer months. This summer, almost 700 staff members enrolled in one or more of the 29 learning sessions offered.

The topics focus on General Instruction Strategies, Assessments, College and Career Readiness, English Language Arts, English Language Learners, Math, Social Emotional Learning, Social Studies, Special Education, and Technology Integration.



"We are fortunate in D303 to offer a multitude of professional learning opportunities for our staff to learn, collaborate and grow," said Pamela Jensen, Director of Instruction. "We are really excited to offer these experiences and to see their commitment to education."

Fun-Filled Field Day

Elementary school students across the district participated in annual field day celebrations at the end of the school year. Students from all grade levels energetically completed obstacle courses, races, and played unique games while learning about teamwork, cooperation, communication, and good sportsmanship.

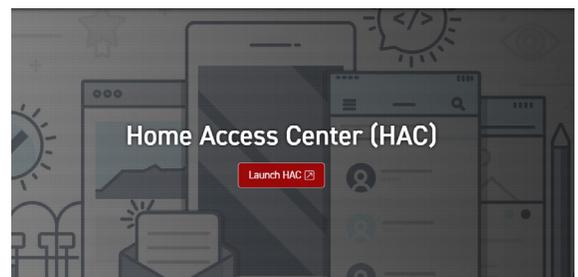
Dozens of parent volunteers explained the rules of the games and guided students through the different activities and obstacle courses. Activities included rock climbing, variations of dodgeball games, outdoor relay races, beach volleyball, and potato sack races.

Students excitedly challenged each other during the tug-of-war, which resulted in many rematches and victory dances, while the all-time favorite “bucket brigade” left students with wet shoes and smiles.



Home Access Center

The Home Access Center site will be unavailable during the summer, starting on June 20. It will become available for the Middle Schools on July 26 at 5:00 p.m., and for the Elementary Schools on August 5. For the High Schools, it will be available the week before the first day of school, August 14.



THOMPSON OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

705 West Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174

District 303 invites the entire community to an open house at the newly remodeled Thompson Middle School. The renovation project, which began in the summer of 2017, added air conditioning, 31 new classrooms, 11 new science labs, a new auxiliary gym, an expanded cafeteria, and a new track and field area. In addition, the newly constructed bus drop off and pick-up area behind the school will improve traffic flow on Indiana and 7th Streets.

After a short ceremony at 5:30 p.m., eighth grade students from the Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) program will conduct tours of the new facility. Student performances will be held throughout the building, and historical artifacts dating back to Thompson High School will be on display.



Summer School & Camps

Visit our [Summer School & Camps page](#) to view brochures that provide detailed information on the various offerings and grade levels served for each offering at each school. Registration can be completed by visiting [PushCoin](#).

