

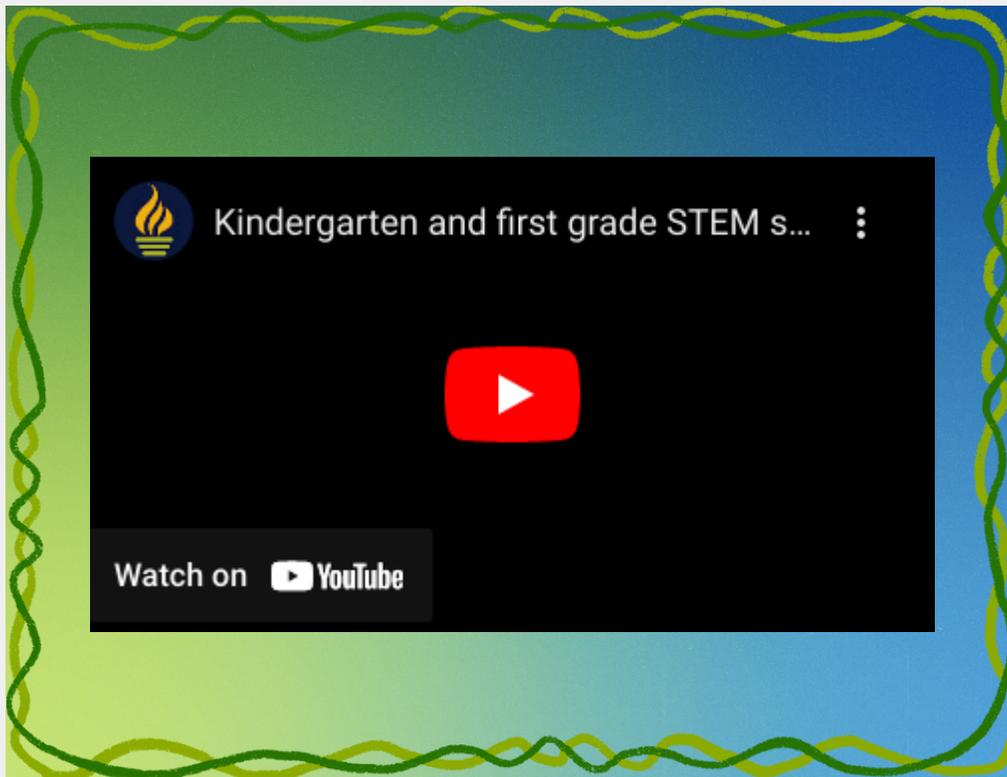
SPOTLIGHT STEM

May 2023

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 Issue 8

Earth Day
—EVERYDAY—



What's In This Month's Issue:

- Earth Day STEM@ Southern Oak
- 22-23 STEM Explorer Club Snapshot
- Did You Know?
- STEM Explorer Club Photos
- Upcoming Events
- Career Connections



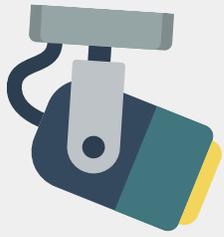
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Kindergarten and first grade STEM students celebrate Earth Day

STEM students from Southern Oak Elementary School celebrate Earth Day by making pollinating insect hand puppets and learning about how the process works.

The official YouTube channel for Pinellas County Schools, featuring videos about our students, teachers, and staff.



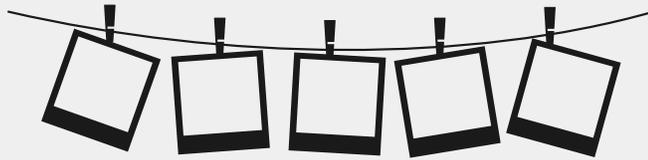


SPOTLIGHT STEM

May 2023

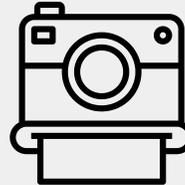
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STEM

Snapshot



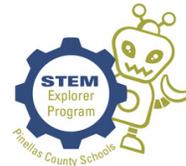
It's been a great year for STEM!

The 2022 - 2023 STEM Explorer Club Program has come to an end for this academic year and I wanted to highlight a few of the amazing accomplishments and opportunities that were available.

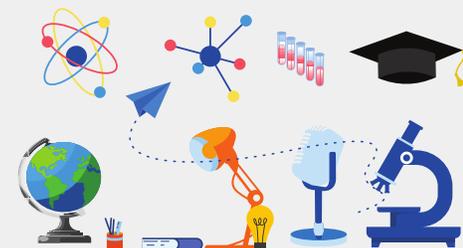
- New this year were grade bands, which promoted peer collaboration and ingenuity.
- We expanded our program to ensure that our youngest explorers had the opportunity to engage in STEM.
- We hosted more than 160 STEM Explorer Clubs in 70 elementary schools.
- More than 150 educators facilitated STEM Explorer Clubs.
- Nearly 2800 students in grades K-5 were enrolled in and engaged in STEM.
- We hosted and worked in partnership to represent Pinellas County Schools in district and community events to include:
 - FIRST Lego Competitions
 - FIRST Tech Challenge Competitions
 - STEM Explorer Festival
 - USF Science Festival
 - James Weldon Johnson Literacy Festival
 - Science Showcase/STEM Expo

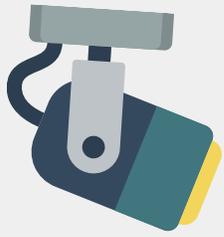
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DID YOU KNOW?

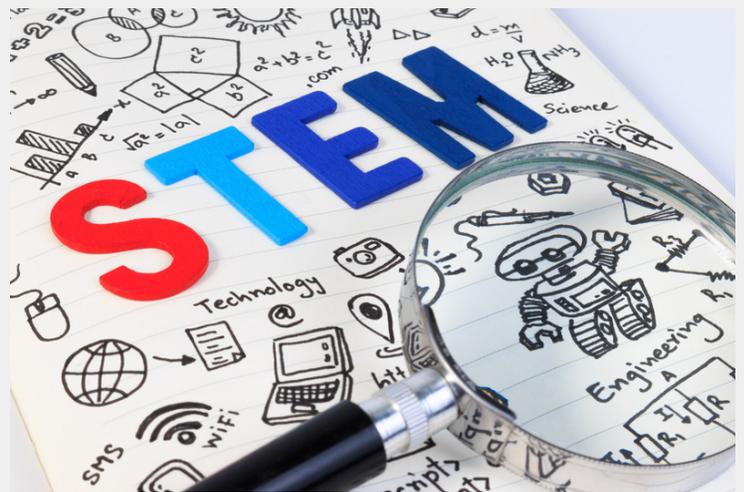
The greatest predictor of student interest in STEM originates from extracurricular experiences with family or friends (VanMeter-Adams et al. 2014).

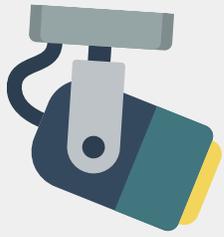
Whether you cook together, engage in citizen science projects such as:

- learning about local plants,
- counting birds,
- observe wildlife anywhere,
- discover strange new worlds with NASA,
- or taking part in hands-on science and engineering design challenges.

These experiences encourage ongoing conversations at home. Research shows that when students are welcome to bring prior experiences into the classroom, they are engaged and eager. Formal science learning comes to life when students see their extracurricular experiences as being valued and appreciated. Nothing compares to when students leave asking, "Can I bring this home to show my family?"

To learn more about this special report check out National Science Teacher Association ([NSTA](#)) *It Starts at Home*.



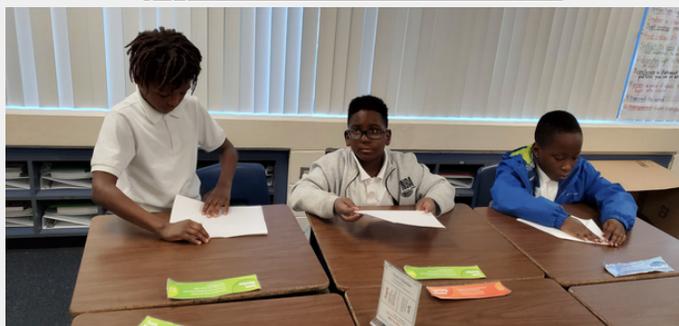
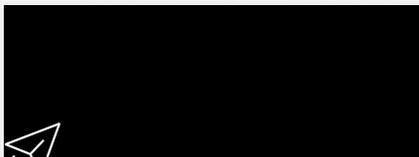


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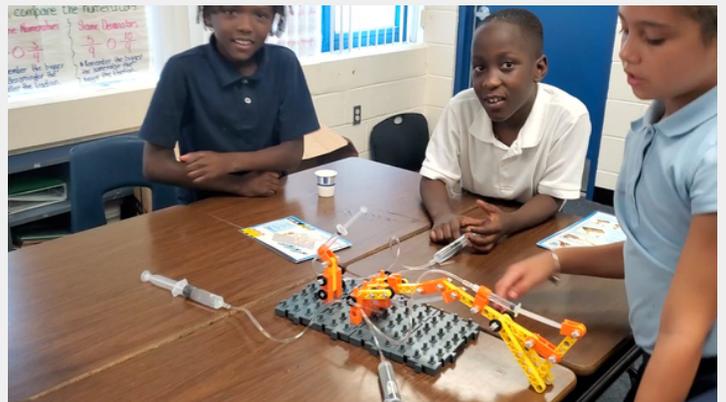
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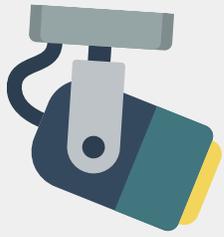
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Lakewood Elementary School
2-3 Explorers learning and building using
hydropower and wind energy.
Photos courtesy of Dierdre Smith, Facilitator





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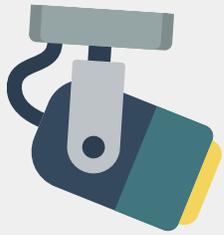


James B. Sanderlin K-8

4-5 Explorers use the engineering design process to test and measure distance.

Photos courtesy of *Carrie Kirkpatrick*, Facilitator





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Woodlawn Elementary School

4-5 STEM Explorer Club - Explorers culminate STEM by exploring the solar system and testing reaction theory with sand and Mentos! *Photos courtesy of Kelly Davidson, Facilitator*



UPCOMING EVENTS

22-23 STUDENT CALENDAR

May 10, 2023
Science Level Up

May 13, 2023
Science Showcase
STEM Expo

May 25, 2023
Last Day for Students



SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT

How Scientists Train Animals to Better Adapt to Their Environments with Eric Trotman, University of Florida

MAY 10, 2023 • 6:30 - 7:00 PM
ZOOM REGISTRATION LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/msb8fdzy>

Description: Join University of Florida Ph.D. student, Eric Troutman, as he recounts the importance of mentorship and exploration through his journey as a scientist, while learning some adaptations that amphibians, birds, and invertebrates use to survive in the wild, as well as how scientists at zoos work towards improving the survival of endangered species.

Facilitated by the Elementary Science department and the Florida Museum of Natural History

For more information: Contact Wendy Noun at nounw@pcsb.org



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CAREER CONNECTIONS

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS



CAREER CONNECTIONS

Special Effects Artists and Animators

Special effects artists and animators create two- and three-dimensional models, images that appear to move, and visual effects for television, movies, video games, and other forms of media.

Special effects artists and animators typically do the following:

- Use computer programs and illustrations to create graphics and animation (images that appear to move).

Work with a team of animators and artists to create a movie, game, or visual effect.

Edit animation and effects on the basis of feedback from directors, other animators, game designers, or clients.

Special effects artists and animators often work in a specific medium. Some focus on creating animated movies or video games. Others create visual effects for movies and television shows. Creating computer-generated images (known as CGI) may include taking images of an actor's movements and then animating them into three-dimensional characters. Other animators design scenery or backgrounds for locations.

Average Annual Salary: \$78,790

