

STEMS News

The Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics School at North Springs Elementary



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03-12-10

** I know—the newsletter comes out on Friday. However, this week I will be presenting at a national conference, so I thought I'd send it out early—you don't have to read it until Friday! ☺ Thanks to all of you who answered my plea for information last week and also those who gave me feedback (all positive) on getting the newsletter via email. If you know someone who did not get it, please ask them to send me new email addresses—a number of send-outs were returned. We will be back on schedule next week!*

Engineering News: Herschel Finds Orion Nebula Contains All The Ingredients For Life.

The [Wired](#) (3/9, Madrigal) "Wired Science" blog reports, "The ingredients for life as we know it have been found in the Orion Nebula." The findings were made using the Herschel Telescope's HiFi instrument, which "uses a new technique to do more-sensitive spectroscopy. It will enable scientists to better understand the chemistry of space." ~source: *the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics 3/09/10*

STEMS Activities: Kindergarten made paper using recycled items to make the pulp. When the paper dried, they used it to make pictures. First grade is doing experiments with solar absorption. In addition, they participated Monday night with 4th graders for a "Starry, Starry Night" using telescopes to look at the constellations. Second graders are using knowledge gained from their field trip last week to design new zoo habitats using dioramas.

Student quote: "George Washington Carver came up with the idea of crop rotation. That means you plant one crop here one year and something else over there. That way it doesn't use all the nutrients up in the dirt."

~Zachary Vereen, Mrs. Branham's kindergarten class



Young Engineer of the Week: George Nissen was 16 years old when he designed and built the first trampoline using steel materials he found in a junkyard and a piece of canvas.

~source: <http://www.ideafinder.com/features/classact/young.htm>

Special Family Events: Family Night (**March 25th**) will highlight special projects students that all our STEMS classes have worked on. Please put this date on your calendar! We will meet in the auditorium at 6:30 pm. The program will last 1 hour. This is a wonderful opportunity for all our students to showcase some of the work they have done and to have an attentive audience to listen! **Also mark your calendars for the March 26th Spaghetti Supper and Silent Auction. This is a delightful fundraiser for the school, and fabulous bargains abound! Watch for special class and teacher items (administrators, too!). A catalogue giving details will be coming home soon.**

***Kindergarten STEMS classes **NEED EVERYONE'S HELP** with their service learning project: recycling aluminum cans. **Please send in cans** to either of the kindergarten classes between now and spring break. If you can, allow your child to crush them before they are brought in.