

Students get their hands on science

Tiogue, Feinstein students collaborate on science projects at 'energy expo'

By **KENDRA LOLIO**
klolio@ricentral.com

COVENTRY – Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School hosted students from Tiogue Elementary School Thursday for a student-led energy expo that got kids hands on and knee-deep in science.

As part of the National Energy Education Development Project (NEED) and National Grid, eighth graders from Team Everglades and Team Zion assembled 18 different stations with ex-

periments and energy-related activities. Then they were tasked with teaching the fifth graders from Tiogue about the energy concepts in play at their stations.

Energy comes in a variety of forms, as the students will learn, including heat, light, motion, sound, nuclear energy and electrical energy.

The younger kids were given booklets to record their findings at each station. At Station 1 they learned about the energy produced by wind turbines.

See **SCIENCE**, page A6

Fifth graders from Tiogue Elementary School visited Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School in Coventry Thursday morning for a student-led energy expo. ASFMS eighth graders set up 18 different stations for students to learn about energy transformations. At right, students get to work using a solar oven to make s'mores.

Photo by Kendra Lolio





Photo by Kendra Lolio

Eighth graders from ASFMS show a group of fifth graders how to calculate Kilowatt hours.

Science

Continued from page A1

The amount of energy being produced changes based on the angles of the blades. Another station based on kilowatts asked students to calculate the amount of energy that is used by different electronics, such as their chrome book chargers, the TV or an overhead projector.

"The slime represents elastic potential energy," an eighth grader said to her group, pulling a glob of white 'oobleck' from a plastic container.

There was a solar oven where students cooked s'mores using radiant, thermal and electrical energy. Students enjoyed placing nails inside lemons and kiwis along with alligator clips to test how much energy each type could produce in a fruit battery.

"I love when you see that look on the fifth graders' faces when they see what they can do at the stations," said ASFMS Science Teacher Linda Grandchamp. "They can't believe it."

Grandchamp started the student-led science expo with fellow teacher Jenni-

fer Pietros.

"She and I started going to conferences with National Grid and we liked what they did, so we wanted to start it here and we did with a group of eighth graders who taught other eighth graders."

Most of the fifth grade students from Tiogue will be attending ASFMS next year, so the expo is a great way to get their feet wet and showcase what goes on at the middle school.

"Hopefully they can take it home and reflect on it," said Grandchamp.

She said the younger students are more engaged in the learning when they are working side-by-side with their peers.

"We have a few kids that are very reluctant learners," she said. "Last year we couldn't get them to do anything and today they're all over this."

The eighth graders will also be performing an energy audit of the school and comparing the results with those from a "tech-free" day to see how much energy the building uses on a regular basis and where energy saving could take place.

"The eighth graders that worked

with us last year, and we saw them step and be leaders," said Grandchamp. "We've gotten a lot of compliments on this program."

Grandchamp said she plans to continue the energy expo in the years to come.

The NEED Project was established more than 35 years ago as a response to President Jimmy Carter's call for increased energy education in U.S. schools. NEED is guided by a 'kids-teaching-kids' philosophy, and encourages students to explore, experiment and engage. The program also provides assistance and training for teachers and staff. Their goal? To educate the students who they say are "the future of the energy workforce."

Every year in June NEED holds an annual Youth Energy Conference for students participating in the Youth Award project. Last year NEED recognized students at Deering Middle School, Washington Oak and Western Coventry Elementary in the 2017 youth awards.

Follow Kendra Lolio on Twitter @kendralolio