



Exploring the World of Science

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FIFTH ANNUAL EDISON SCIENCE OLYMPIAD BRINGS SCIENCE TO LIFE

ELMHURST, IL -- Edison School and local science experts will join to host the Fifth Annual Edison School Science Olympiad on Wednesday, February 23, from 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Representatives from the Chicago Audubon Society, Elmhurst College, the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art and American Airlines will supervise four of the evening's nine events.

Nearly 250 students on four-person teams will move through original hands-on science activities such as Grossology™, Operation Egg Drop and Color Splash, each designed to foster a sense of discovery and introduce new and exciting science concepts. Between acting as parent guides and supervising events, more than 110 Edison parents will attend the Science Olympiad, along with several Edison teachers and Principal Sharma-Lewis.

Students from grades K-5 are invited to attend the Science Olympiad free of charge, and fun is of the highest order. Since each team chooses a name and color, you might encounter the Funky Fungus, outfitted in matching mold-covered t-shirts, the Sizzling Science Sisters, dressed in shocking pink, or the Blue Tornadoes, complete with dyed spiked hair and face paint. The goals of the elementary Science Olympiad are to translate the excitement of hands-on exploration to a life-long love of science, to encourage kids to participate in a stress-free environment and to promote teamwork and problem solving.

This year the Edison Science Olympiad will have three veteran guests and one new visitor. Roger Shamley, a Board Member of the Chicago Audubon Society and nature center volunteer will be running Fill the Bill, where students will make predictions and test a variety of bird beaks on several food sources. Captain Alan Neil, a retired American Airlines pilot and flight educator from Marengo, IL, will once again guide students through the design/build/test phases of paper airplanes in Aerodynamics Aloft.

Dorothy Asher, director of Elmhurst's Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art, will be back to lead a 30-minute workshop on the identification of rocks and minerals in the Rock Hound event. And Dr. Michelle Applebee, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Elmhurst College, along with members of the Elmhurst College Chemistry Club, will help students identify four unknown substances through a series of laboratory experiments in a command performance of Mystery Powders.

As word of the Edison Science Olympiad has spread throughout District 205, more Elmhurst elementary schools are considering the program. In 2005, science teacher Arlene Flower and a group of dedicated PTA parents will be hosting their own Field School Science Olympiad on Tuesday, March 15. Three other elementaries are discussing a Science Olympiad event for next year.

Science Olympiad is an international non-profit organization founded in 1984 and dedicated to enhancing K-12 science education. Currently, more than 14,500 schools participate in elementary, middle school and high school Science Olympiad tournaments, garnering awards, scholarships, travel opportunities and community-wide recognition for students interested in science.

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2005 Contact Information:

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Roger Shamley, Board Member
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Event Descriptions:

Level K-1

Barge Building: Students will design clay and foil boats to test which holds the most weight and why.

Color Splash: By experimenting with a variety of liquids (water, cooking oil, glue, milk and dish soap) and drops of food coloring, students will learn about the density and properties of fluids.

Fill the Bill: Students will make predictions about and chart the success of different types of simulated bird beaks for catching several food sources.

Level 2-3

Aerodynamics Aloft: Students will build paper airplanes designed to hit a designated target and travel the longest distance. Elements such as wind and added weight will simulate a variety of flying conditions.

Grossology™: Based on the popular traveling museum exhibit, kids will perform experiments associated with the more disgusting aspects of the human body.

Don't Bug Me: Students will test their knowledge of insects by answering questions about a variety of bugs on loan from the Field Museum of Chicago.

Level 4-5

Rock Hound: Dorothy Asher, director of the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art, will run a workshop on rock and mineral identification.

Mystery Powders: Dr. Michelle Applebee, chemistry professor from Elmhurst College, will walk students through lab experiments to determine the identity of four mystery substances.

Operation Egg Drop: Students will use given materials to design and build on-site a crate that will safely break the fall of a raw egg from 12 feet.