

ChaiLights

Celebrating Science in Grades Four & Five (Plus Design, Innovation, Research, & Public Speaking!)



Our fourth and fifth graders are participating in the Celebrate Science program at the McWane Center. This is a contest where schools submit their own prototype of an exhibit which if chosen will be on display at the McWane Center. To kick off the program, the students visited the McWane Center to learn what makes a successful exhibit, and now students are working on prototypes of their own exhibit to enter into the Celebrate Science competition.

After their visit to McWane, students began to brainstorm their own exhibit concepts. As a class, students have come up with three different ideas, and they are working together to figure out which idea is the strongest concept to enter in the contest. They have narrowed in on buoyancy, sound vibrations, and lightning. As a class, the students decided on their top three. The idea for sound and vibration came from a video students watched in music class about a xylophone in the forest. Students then created display boards for each as a preliminary step in their design and decision making process.

Elizabeth Gargus, a McWane education specialist, visited our school to hear about the students' ideas. In groups, our students presented the ideas one by one, and Ms. Gargus gave feedback about their research, design, and more. In her feedback, she really emphasized the teamwork aspect of scientific research. After hearing this feedback, students have hypothesized a few more ways to select which of the three options they will pursue for their project. We can't wait to see which idea they select!