In STEM: Lego Machines, students grades 4-6 are using hands-on activities to explore science and engineering concepts. The students have the opportunity to construct simple machines using Lego, says Mrs. Lisa Nagatoshi who teaches the class with her assistant Pieter Nauwelaerts in room 217.

“What makes this class unique is that the students are able to show their creativity in building their own simple machines,” says Mrs. Nagatoshi. Additionally, the course teaches students how to collaborate with one another. “Our students are able to resolve their problems individually and with others,” adds Mrs. Nagatoshi. Student Myla Suapaia shared that this class helps them collaborate with others and make new friends.

This week, the students built ten machines and made changes to them in order to serve different purposes. Student Trey Ambrozich was, “happy to build my first simple machine in my life.” Eventually, the students will learn how to assemble a robot and create a program to navigate a course. “I am looking forward to building a robot and programming it,” says student Evan Ing.
STEM Workshop: Science Olympics
by Sarah Taniguchi and Rene Yoshimura

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. In STEM Workshop: Science Olympics, grades 1-3 students will learn about the fundamentals of circuits, the principles behind sturdy structures and aerodynamics of flight, the properties of slime/gunk, the importance of making good observations, and more. This afternoon session is taught by Ms. Jennifer Seki-Wong in Room 230 along with her assistants Karey Yoshioka and Carly Venencia-no.

Throughout the first week of the program, students worked on teamwork and communication skills. Various games were also played in the classroom like telephone, science sketchers (like Pictionary but with science terms), and students built bridges out of LEGOS to span 30cm, hold tennis balls and cardboard boxes. Later, students will apply their knowledge to real world applications in competitions against one another. Students will be given new situations to solve and challenge themselves and their classmates.

First-grader Kayla Suapaia said her favorite thing so far has been to compete against her classmates. Kayla likes the friendly competition in the class, it pushes her to produce better work. Second-grader Guzelle Magnier said, “I chose this class because I like Science, and I thought that this class will be fun.” She thinks that this class is unique compared to other classes. Riann Shiro said, “I like my teacher. She is not strict, she’s nice.”

Ms. Seki-Wong is a supportive and generous teacher that helps her students when they need it.

“I wanted to teach this class because I am a Science Olympiad coach,” says Mrs. Seki-Wong. She believes that STEM is very important to apply in the real world. “In almost every situation there is some STEM that you could use to solve problems.” She added, “The students are very enthusiastic and they don’t give up easily.” This could be useful because in the future students could study STEM. Students can benefit from the competition in Science Olympics because they can learn from their mistakes and improve against one another.
Robotics with Lego WeDo

Robotics with Lego WeDo is a class designed to introduce kids to robotics and mechanical design. It allows students to explore and develop STEM, as well as Language Arts and Social Studies. Ms. Sherry Alam teaches the class in room 101. “The course begins with simple projects and buildings and then advances into creative projects that students will build and program,” she explained.

Students get into pairs to work together and contribute their skills to design, create, and program moving models, all while enhancing their creativity and problem solving abilities. They built a glowing nail, cooling fan, moving satellite, and spy robot. These are all the basic projects.

On our visit, everyone was building a robot car, even the teacher assistant was interested. One of the groups finished and they were impressed with what they built.

Student Wanhe Sun chose this class because, “Back in China I used to do robotics and I liked it.” Another girl named Chloe Smith also said, “My mom chose this class for me because she thought I liked building with Legos.” What they said of what they do in the class is, “We build things and program them to move.” Keona Barraza said, “some of my favorite activities are building robots and programming my robots to move.” Another boy named Keahi Hernandez said something that he liked building robots.
Driver’s Education
by Reese Akana and Lucas Ordonez

Have you ever wanted to drive your own car? According to State Law and Mr. Kala, you need to complete Driver’s Education classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel hours to receive your driving permit. Here at CRDG Summer Programs, students have the opportunity to meet one of these important steps. In this class, students will learn techniques of defensive driving to be a safe and sensible driver.

Mr. Kala likes driving and wants to keep the road safe. If we don’t keep the road safe then none of these students would want to drive. His family business is Driver’s Ed because his dad was an instructor. He always shares his personal experiences with the students especially in the middle of a lesson.

We asked the students if the educational videos helped them learn about driving and they said, “The videos help because I don’t just take notes all the time.” Another question we asked was what is your biggest fear of driving? They said, “My biggest fear of driving is getting into a crash and not being able to do anything to stop it.”

Overall Driver’s Ed is a very good class if you are trying to get your permit. This class will help you because it will teach you about the basics of driving.

As for behind-the-wheel driving hours, Mr. Kala can make arrangements after the summer program ends.

Favorite Cat Memes