



Olympics of the Mind

The Stars Challenge at Monmouth University 2009

Winning is the name of the game! That is how I described this course to you at the beginning of the term. However, it was much more than just winning or getting donuts as a prize, We made new friends and learned how to work as a team, sometimes taking the leading role, other times recognizing another's ability to lead. We learned how to apply physics principles and engineering skills to the designs of the devices we built to solve the weekly challenges. By comparing the approach the other teams used to meet the challenge, we were able to learn new ways to think about a problem. As we left to return home, the good feelings of a friendly competition along with the new knowledge and skills learned made the whole evening worthwhile. The treats were just a bonus.

I was so impressed to observe your problem solving skills grow during the ten weeks we spent together. All of you are winners! May you always face the challenges of life with the sweet victory of the taste of donuts.

Mr. Valente



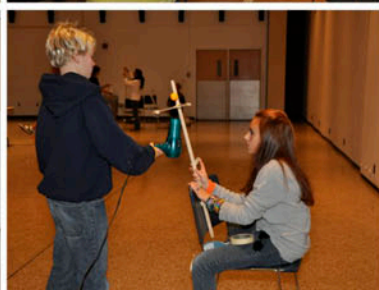
Andrew is intensely focused as he builds his penny catapult. He wants to win those donuts!
Mary Kate and Sara get ready to launch!



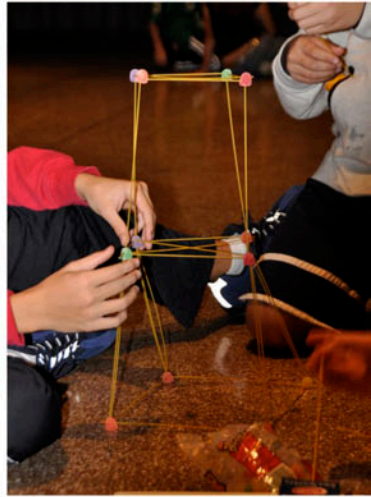
The teams design and build their penny catapults. The suspense of the competition as Connor, Jazz, Chris, and Dennis measure the distance their penny was launched.



The students guide the ping pong ball through the course using Bernoulli's principle. Roger, Sam, Ryan, Dean and Patrick guide their ping pong ball through the course.



Mia helps Tom get the ping pong ball through the hoop. Colleen and Franny are focused to win.



The students build a spaghetti gum drop tower. Connor shows the pain of defeat. The agony: no donuts tonight! Shalin and Andrew are building to victory. Tom and Roger are catching up!



Sara, Franny, Mia and Andrew are pleased with their design.



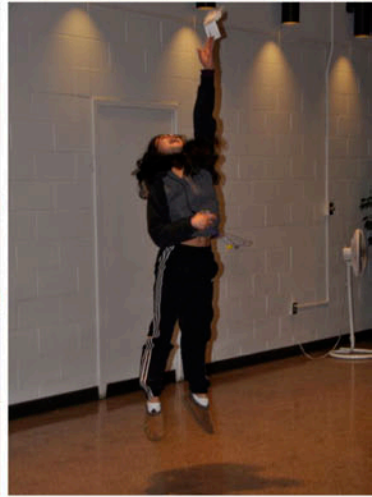
It's a race! Who will win, Shalin and Ryan or Sam, Andrew and Dean?



Maritess and Colleen happily watch as Anna drops their paper helicopter. The teams gather around Skyler to see who are the winners. Roger waits for the news.



Jazz times her team's paper helicopter under the watchful eyes of the other teams. Who will win tonight?



Tom tests his paper helicopter and airplane. Chris busily redesigns his paper helicopter. Patrick watches as his paper helicopter is dropped.



Dennis, Shalin, and Sam and Ryan, Dean, and Sara design their Cartesian divers. Dennis, Ryan, Andrew Tort and Andrew Nastasi think they have the winning design.



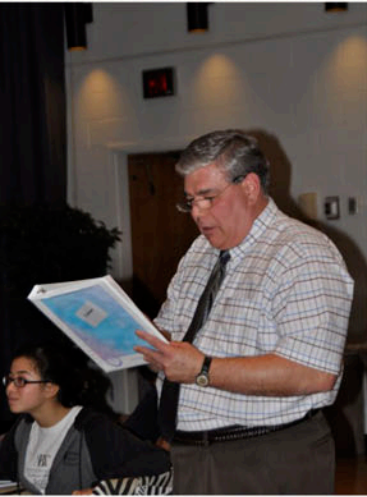
Jazz and Tom test their Cartesian diver.



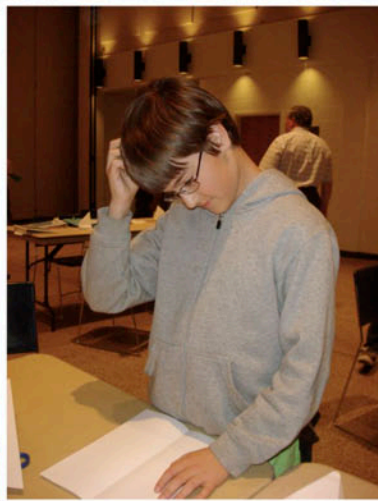
Colleen and Mia support their team member Conner as Anna times him during the Cartesian diver challenge. Dean and Ryan practice while Andrew Nastasi and Andrew Tort smell victory.



Shalin gets ready to test his airplane.



Franny designs her airplane. Coleen and Jazz discuss their design with Anna.



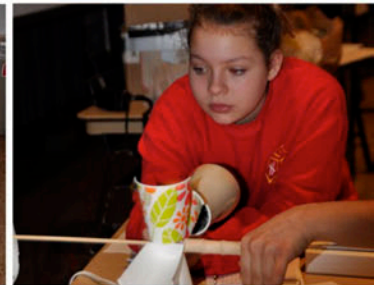
Dennis thinks real hard to design the winning airplane. Anna is keeping all in suspense. Who won?



Maritess and Sara test their wind mill design. Tom laughs at the competition!



Mary Kate test her team's design with the help of Maritess.



Mary Kate watches with caution as her windmill picks up paper clips. Will her team win?



Chris, Andrew and Ryan are pleased with their roller coaster design.



Jazz, Mia, Colleen and Sara enjoy the taste of victory!



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