



School Age Care Positive Happenings February 2011

Design It! Explore It!

Engineering in After School Programs is a hands-on science program created by the Center for Science Education for out of school time (OST) programs. The Forest Lake Area Schools School Age Care (SAC) program is one of 50 OST sites participating in the National Partnerships for After School Science (NPASS), Minnesota School Age Care Associations and the Science Museum of Minnesota three year grant (2009-2012) in Minnesota for the nationwide implementation of this STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum.



Goals for the NPASS curriculum are to:

- Provide programs that regularly engage children in meaningful science exploration which piques their interest and confidence in pursuing study and career options in science
- Focus on Process Skills and Sense Making
- Help children learn collaborative problem solving

This year SAC students have participated in four science units – String Telephones, Gliders, Rubber Band Powered Cars and Trebuchets. Future units will include activities on Balancing Toys, Wiring a House and Siphon Systems. All of the science lessons align with school-based learning standards.

Nancy Siefert, SAC Assistant Coordinator, has been trained in the curriculum and is currently training SAC staff from all of the district elementary schools as well as staff from Chisago, North Branch and Centennial School Districts. The mission of the NPASS program is to improve the quality and quantity of hands-on science in the OST programs. This is done through ongoing professional development and support to OST staff and other informal educators.

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