

The Blazer

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Get your science on

by Jamie Torney

WJPS had their second annual science fair. Sixth grade science fair winners: Vida Ekhlis and Anastasia Edwards built a hovercraft.

The craft was able to pick up an adult using power from a leaf blower.

"I was blown away by their level of scientific concept which, showed me that they enjoyed and understood their projects," said science teacher Mr. Malmud.

Each sixth grader had to take a quiz online and their results gave them a few choices, then they had to have the problem, hypothesis observations, conclusion on a tri fold board and present it to the class.

Students took an online personality test, which asked them various questions. Based on their answers

students were given various science projects that appealed to their interests.

Once a project was picked the students then had to create a tri-fold board containing their problem, hypothesis, materials, and conclusion.

"We built our hovercraft in four days, we used plywood, tarp, a leaf blower, small desk, two fender washers, tape, and a staple gun," said sixth graders Vida Ekhlis and Anastasia Edwards.

WJPS student Dan Merone created another project called the static electric fan. To complete the experiment you rub two pieces of fabric together and place them in front of a metal piece attached to a light. When there is a negative charge the light is dull, and when there is a positive charge the light becomes brighter.

"I was impressed with everyone's projects, but the hover craft was the best," said parent coordinator Mrs. Reed.



Mr. Wirtheim rides hovercraft. Picture by Ms. Sackstein.

Students compete in Envirothon

by Melissa Iachetta

WJPS students had been in rigorous training this year, the competition they were training for: the Envirothon.

The Envirothon is an environmental science competition that tests students in six categories: wildlife, forestry, soil, aquatics, as well as current issues. A presentation was also required.

The competition was held on April 3, at Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx.

"I think it was really great how some students did this competition. As a part of the environmental club I thought it was really cool to hear some of our students were doing this. I think we are making WJPS a little more environmentally infused by having the club, and this competition," sophomore, Livianette Cabrera said.

Students rotated from station to station and had a half hour at each station to complete 25 multiple choice questions. Some questions relied on prior knowledge and others had to do with hands on activities that were completed at the station.

Competing in the Envirothon WJPS junior Raymond Arroyo said, "It was a hard long competition. My team and I fought hard through blistering cold and pouring rain

to complete every station to the best of our abilities. Some of the tools we had no idea how to utilize due to our lack of preparation, but that didn't stop our team from fighting hard to the 16th place in the competition."

There were 21 teams in total competing from schools all over New York City. Each team had up to five students and one alternate.

WJPS had two teams competing. The teams consisted of Giovanni Ramos, Raymond Arroyo, Claudia Chavez, Rachel Reed, Divya Desai and Catherine Orenge. Jeffrey Shine, Elizabeth Greenfield and Lisa Ludford were also on the team but did not make it to the competition.

The weather was about 50 degrees and it was raining. The competition was held on a beach, where weather was even worse.

"Since the weather was so terrible we went through the stations and lunch pretty quickly so that we could

get back on the warm bus. We later found out that we came in 16 and 17 out of 21 teams. Not too bad for our first Envirothon. Overall, despite the weather, the students had a great time and can't wait to compete next year when we will be even better prepared," says Envirothon advisor Ms. Cimini.



WJPS students participated in the 2009 Envirothon. Picture by Adriana Crotty.

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