

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Camp Invention students get creative



If you had a tendency to break things as a kid just to see what was inside, and then spent the rest of the day trying to put all the parts back together again, Camp Invention would have been a perfect place to spend a week during the summer.

Camp Invention ran June 7-11 at Rahe Bulverde Elementary, and more than 75 attendees from grades 2-6 spent

time building and powering their own fantasy creatures using new types of energy, creating items to sell in a virtual world to help them better understand economic and entrepreneurial work, and inventing games and building things to play them with.

“It seems like every single student we have is full of enthusiasm during Camp Invention,” said teacher Deena Springer. “This camp teaches them what we will need to build to live successfully in the future.”

Bill Brown Elementary student Jackson Sedlak said he definitely plans on returning to Camp Invention in the future.

“I love learning about machines,” said Sedlak, who was building a robot out of an orange juice bottle, masking tape, batteries and a power cell. “I’ve never been to this camp before, and I’m surprised at how much I like it. Every day we learn something new.”

One of the most popular stations was “I Can Invent III” where students broke apart machines to see how things like the gears and magnets work inside.

They then took those parts and used them and other recycled material to produce a new invention that created a chemical reaction when completed.

“The older students invented a Rube Goldberg device, which creates a chain reaction,” said teacher Michelle Grell. “Their goal was to get vinegar into a baking soda container in four steps. We watched a lot of these devices on YouTube so the kids got really excited.”

Teacher Karen Williams said she’s seen students leave Camp Invention with big smiles time and time again through the years.

“The students love the interaction with teachers and fellow campers,” Williams said. “It teaches them to problem solve as a team. It’s a great learning tool because it will prepare kids to think their way through tough situations when they get into high school and as adults.”

It wasn’t a hard sell to get Rebecca Creek Elementary student Alexandra Williams to return to Camp Invention, as she was making her fourth straight appearance at one of her favorite summer events.

“I just like inventing things,” Williams said. “I also like taking things apart. It opens up a whole new world you usually don’t see, and it really makes you think.”

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IN PHOTOS: Bill Brown Elementary student Jackson Sedlak builds a robot out of an orange juice bottle, masking tape, batteries and a power cell during Camp Invention, which was held at Rahe Bulverde Elementary June 7-11.

Rahe Bulverde student Sarah Franks concentrates hard while trying to figure out exactly what made this radio work during Rahe Bulverde Elementary School’s Camp Invention.

Specht Elementary students Esme Garcia (left) and Mia Flowers play a game they helped create during Camp Invention.

