

Lakeway Students Sweep Northeast Kingdom Science Fair

LYNDONVILLE, VT — The Lakeway Science Club entered the 18th Annual Northeast Kingdom Science Fair held at Lyndon State College (LSC) last Friday to earn four of six awards in the 3rd/4th Grade and 5th/6th Grade prize categories.

More than 90 projects from students in grades three through eight competed in the fair coordinated by the Sigma Zeta Club and the American Meteorology Society/National Weather Association (AMS/NWS). Sigma Zeta fosters knowledge of natural sciences, mathematics and computer sciences, and the AMS/NWA stimulates interest in meteorology.

The Lakeway Science Club — led by Dr. Nolan Atkins, parent and professor of Meteorology at LSC, and Mrs. Leslie Robbins, parent and educator — gathered fourteen students after school to encourage interest in science. Students were introduced to the Scientific Method by investigating the puzzling, large chunk of ice that fell at the Adair Country Inn in Bethlehem on October 23, 2009. They analyzed the ice, developed a hypothesis, tested it through data collection and developed conclusions based on their investigations.

To enter their first science fair, the students chose their own topics of interest and created projects that included charts, models, demos, and impressive visual and oral presentations. In all, nine winners were announced for three grade-level categories. Lakeway students took home four of six prizes from the two categories entered:

Xavier Giddings, sixth grade, won 3rd Place in the 5th/6th Grade category. Project Title: “Which Ball Will Fly The Farthest Using My Homemade Trebuchet?”

Billy Sanders, third grade, won 3rd Place in the 3rd/4th Grade category. Project Title: “Ping Pong Ball Catapult.”

MacKenzie Caulfield, third grade, won 2nd Place in the 3rd/4th Grade category. Project Title: “The Strongest Beaver Dam?”

Nathaniel Atkins, third grade, won 1st Place in the 3rd/4th Grade category. Project Title: “How Do Stabilizing Fins Help Submarines Move?”

“These students should be extremely proud,” said Leslie Robbins. “In my book they were all winners last Friday because of the high quality of their work. The LSC students deserve kudos as well for organizing an educational and fun event.”

The Lakeway Science Club projects will be on display at future Lakeway events for all to see, including those by Hudson Marks, 3rd grade, “Rolling Cylinders Down Ramps,” Ben Sweeney, 4th grade, “How Do Hot Water and Cold Water Mix?” Julia Bews, 5th grade, “Ratio of Gears,” Crawford Marks, 5th grade, “How Are Pendulums Affected by Weight and String Length?” Jarod Nelson, 5th grade, “Substances Producing Carbon Dioxide,” Maren Scott, 5th grade, “Which Birdseed Do Birds Like Best?” and Ethan Ellingwood, 6th grade, “The Ultimate Foul Shot?” For more information or to be involved in the Lakeway Science Club, contact Leslie Robbins at RobbinsandMarks@aol.com.