

December and January Edition

STEMIA SCOOP

“IT’S THE
MOST
WONDERFUL
TIME OF THE
YEAR!”



STEM PE DANCE UNIT



The outcomes from our physical education curriculum are varied. Some people love playing specific sports to demonstrate their skills, while some are not real sports enthusiasts. When it comes to rhythmic movement (dance), students in this school are collective fans!



STEM PE DANCE UNIT (CONT.)

As a teacher who has come from other schools, I was not prepared for the engagement and genuine excitement that the dance unit elicited. On any given day during the unit, there were groups of students in the hallway, practicing their routines and grooving to their tunes of choice. When it came time to present, the audience support was unlike anything I have seen before.



As groups presented, they were cheered on and applauded. Students from other classrooms were eager to go watch their friends in order to support them, and phys. ed. teachers welcomed spectators in. The performances reflected skill and dedicated practice. It was a positive way to boogie into the holidays!

Ms. Witte



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STEM IA'S

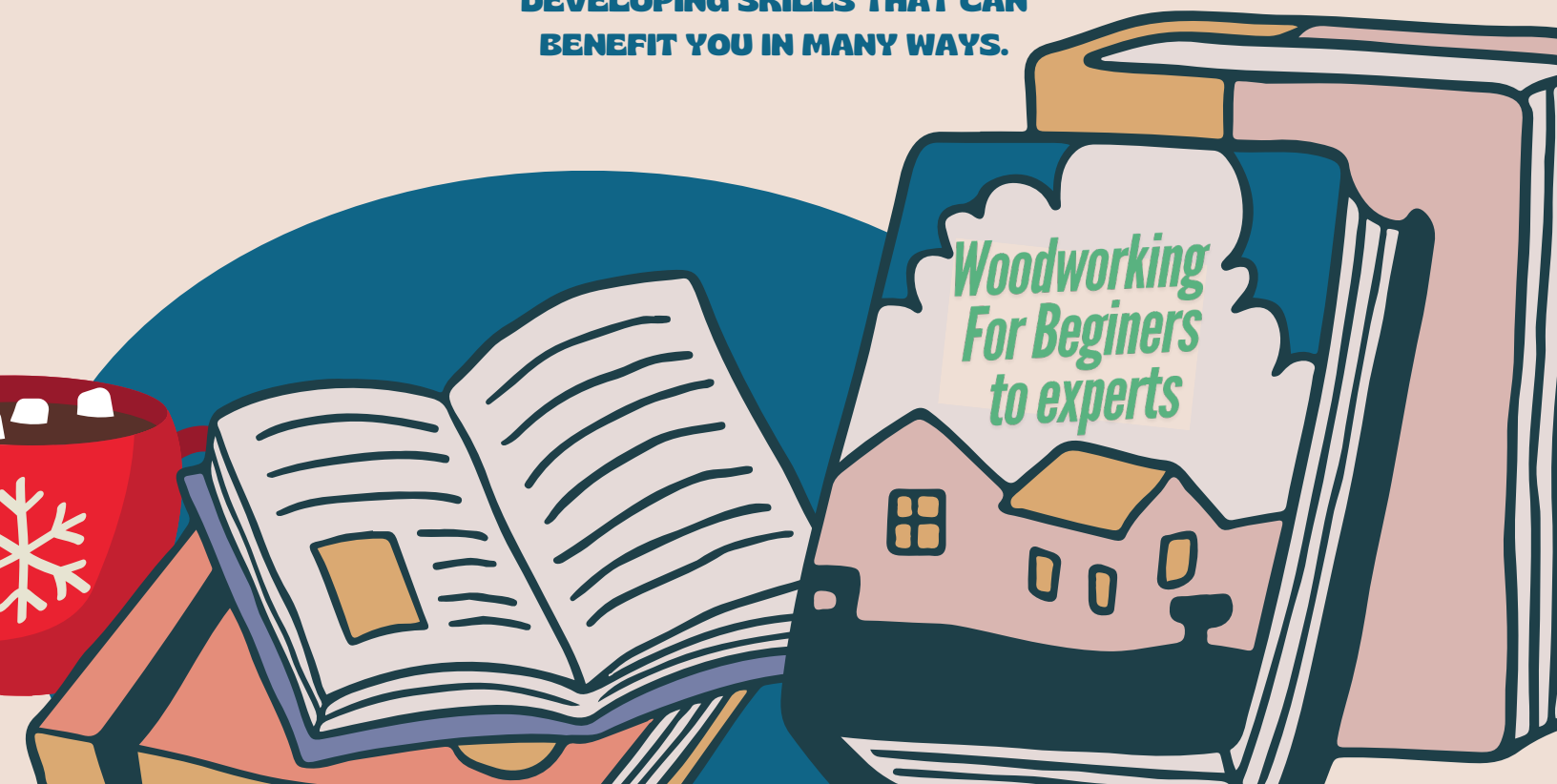
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SKILLS CLUB

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO LEARN NEW SKILLS BUT HAD NO ONE TO TEACH YOU? WELL, LOOK NO FURTHER BECAUSE STEMIA HAS THEIR VERY OWN SKILLS CLUB! "SKILLS CLUB IS AN AMAZING PLACE WHERE EVERYONE WORKS TOGETHER," TEMI, A MEMBER OF THE SKILLS CLUB, REMARKS. SHE ALSO SAYS THERE IS "A VERY POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE WHERE EVERYONE IS SUPPORTIVE AND PARTICIPATES." SKILLS CLUB DOESN'T JUST TEACH YOU SKILLS, BUT IT IS ALSO A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN LEARN TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS THAT HAVE THE SAME INTERESTS AS YOU!

THIS CLUB HAS WORKED ON MANY PROJECTS SUCH AS A BUBBLE HOUSE, A COOKIE CUTTER, AND THEIR VERY OWN LOGO! ANOTHER MEMBER COMMENTS THAT THEIR FAVORITE PROJECT WAS THE BUBBLE HOUSE. EVERYONE IN THE CLUB WAS ABLE TO WORK ON THIS PROJECT FOR THE WHOLE DAY.

DURING SKILLS CLUB, STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN HANDS-ON LEARNING. THEY ALL GET THE CHANCE TO WORK WITH VARIOUS TOOLS AND MATERIALS. ONE PERSON SAID THEY GOT TO WORK WITH SHEET METAL WHICH WAS AN "INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE". IN CONCLUSION, JOINING A SKILLS CLUB IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN, GROW, AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS WHILE DEVELOPING SKILLS THAT CAN BENEFIT YOU IN MANY WAYS.





STAFF Spotlight

The staff highlight is a feature of a teacher or staff in the school and there will be a new one every month. The newspaper club has brainstormed some fun questions to ask these teachers to explore their perspectives and life outside of school.

The staff highlight of this month is Mr. Hoffman. He is an amazing science teacher, working with grades 8 and 9. Mr. Hoffman makes his lessons very engaging and fun, and strives to be a teacher students can love and relate to.

1. What job did you want when you were in Junior High?

When I was in Junior High, I was quite interested in aerospace engineering, with the ultimate goal of being an astronaut.

2. If you won a million dollars, what would you do first?

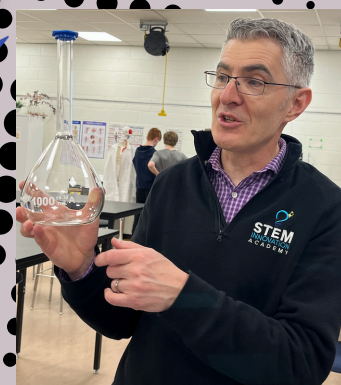
That's a tough question, as it was so long ago, and \$1,000,000 was a lot back then. I think I would have moved into my own home.

3. What is the strangest thing you have had to do as a teacher?

For me, dissections remain the strangest thing.

4. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

Super-immune system, so I never got sick.



5. What is one slang word your students use that you secretly love but pretend to hate?

Generally, I openly embrace and use student slang. I have enjoyed "skibidi", though it seems to be on the way out. I secretly enjoyed "sui" and found it quite humorous that students didn't know it is a Latin word.

6. What is your go-to marking snack?

Interesting. I never thought about this. I generally don't eat when I'm marking, but recently I've been listening to past World Series games.

7. What has been your favourite science experiment or lab this school year?

My favourite experiment is the thermite demonstration. Aluminum powder and iron (III) oxide generate molten iron and aluminum oxide. The demo requires high ventilation, so it can't be done inside at STEMIA, but perhaps it could be done in the parking lot?

By Maya M.

The Last Week of School Before Winter Break – Brought to us by Student Council!

The last week before winter break was filled with excitement, and went by slowly as we began to move into our weekend vibes. The week was filled with games, last minute assignments, and multiple fun dress up days! The first day of the week started on Monday, when everyone greeted each other and started to chatter away about what they would do during the weekends. The second day arrived when everyone was in some green, gold, red, and white Christmas theme clothing. Wednesday was the best Christmas outfit day, as everyone arrived at school in their pjs, looking like they just got up from bed! Many people looked very tired and colorful as they waddled down the halls to their next class. Thursday arrived, and the school was chattering about how there is only one more day before the break. Everyone was wearing a comfortable ugly sweater, finishing some projects before the weekend. Then, the last week came swooping in; it was casual day where everyone wore normal clothes to school – no STEM gear required. That day was filled with games, competition, goodbyes, and excitement as they dreamed about how relaxing the break would be.

Some events that happened over the last week, beyond the themed dress-up days, was:

Candy Cane Giving - as people bought them for others and themselves, showing the true meaning of Christmas: giving to others. The candy canes came in unique designs and colors which was fun!

Sweets, or Treats Shop: Desserts donated with Christmas designs like reindeer, Santa, snowflakes, Christmas tree, and more. People entered the hive with paper bags and plates, exiting it with creamy sweet desserts, that piled on top of each other.

The last week was truly a fun, and unforgettable one which had slowly prepared us for the relaxing weekend. Dressing up and desserts are the best way to enter the Christmas weekends – do you agree?!

Written by: Tejaswini P.



STEMIA SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL



The Senior Boys Basketball Team has begun an exciting season, showcasing talent, determination, and teamwork! With four wins under their belt, the team has grown together and learned valuable lessons.

When asked why he chose to play on the team, Adam Bibars from 8B said his passion for the sport: "I play basketball outside of school, as well. Playing on [our Sparks Team] was a chance to improve my skills and gain more experience. The teams I play on, the better I get." His dedication to sport and his improvement is mirrored across the roster this year.

The season hasn't been without its challenges. Consistency proves to be an area of growth they can continue to focus on. As a team, they hope to work on being a cohesive unit: "Some games, we have great defense or make good plays, but if we aren't showing well, we end up losing," explained Adam. Despite this, the team's positive spirit remains unwavering: "Even after tough losses, the energy in the locker room has been great, and we've kept supporting each other."



STEMIA SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL, CONT'D

This year's roster is a solid mix of Grade 8 and 9. This has created a dynamic team that balanced experience and new energy. However, with many players moving onto the North STEMIA Campus next year, only about a quarter of the current team will return. This means that the 2026 season will be an opportunity for new players to step up and make their mark.

As the team looks ahead to next year, the focus will remain on building consistency and fostering teamwork. For now, they can continue to celebrate their hard work, improvement, and the strong bonds they have formed.

Good luck with your remaining season, Sparks!

Written by Miss. Higden



Book Review: Treasure Hunters

by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein

*Have you ever wanted to go on adventures, have fun, and discover treasures? With **Treasure Hunters** by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein, you can experience it all from the comfort of your home! This exciting, fast-paced adventure hooks readers from the very first page.*

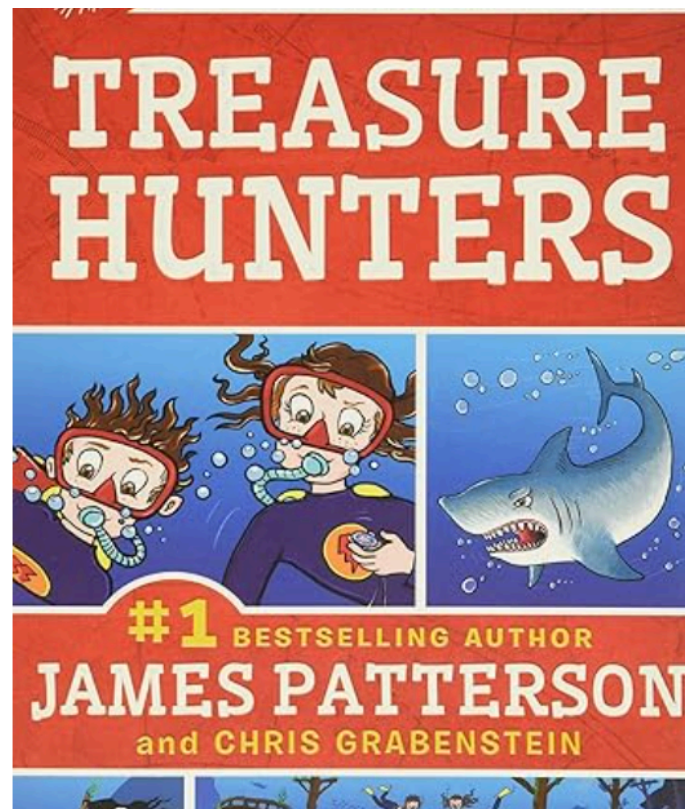
The story introduces us to the Kidd family—a group of daring, clever siblings who embark on a thrilling journey across the globe to solve mysteries, find treasure, and uncover secrets about their missing parents. Narrated by Bick Kidd, whose humor and wit add charm to the story, the adventure is even more engaging. Alongside his twin sister Beck, older brother and sister, Tommy and Storm, the Kidd family's energy feels authentic, filled with sibling rivalries, teamwork, and heartwarming moments.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its blend of action, humor, and mystery, combined with the love and care between the siblings. The plot is filled with twists and turns, and the vivid descriptions of exotic locations transport readers straight into the action. The illustrations scattered throughout add a fun visual element, making it perfect for younger readers or anyone who enjoys lively storytelling.

The themes of family, bravery, and resilience shine as the Kidds face danger, solve puzzles, and rely on one another to overcome challenges. Personally, I loved the humorous, witty dialogues and the heart-pounding chases.

If you're curious, check it out at a library or a bookstore!

- *By Avani N K*



Meme of the Month

Three types of students during finals

