ORLANDO SCIENCE SCHOOLS
Public Relations Summary: June 2015 – June 2016

CCG secured more than 135 clips from June 2015 – June 2016. Coverage included stories about the following topics:

- Academic accomplishments
- Community engagement
- Osceola Science Charter School and Seminole Science Charter School open houses and other events
- Student features and profiles

This year’s publicity highlights include:

- Numerous print and broadcast placements highlighting the new Osceola Science Charter School, including three TV station stories during the school preview.

- A feature story on Fox 35’s Good Day Orlando including a teacher and student for an in-studio segment, “Are you smarter than a STEM student?”

- An in-depth article in the Orlando Sentinel about the success of Orlando Science Schools and opening of the new Seminole Science Charter School.
MEDIA PLACEMENTS

- The following media outlets ran news about the Dean's List Award:
  
  
  
  o *Pine Hills Press* (print and online) – ran photo and release June/July 2015 issue.

- The following media outlets ran news about OSS' national ranking:
  
  

- The following media outlets ran news about OSS' Scripps National Spelling Bee Finalist:
  
  o *The Florida Sun* – (print) ran photo and release, including front page photo. June 2015 issue.
  
  o *Central Florida Lifestyle* (print and online) – ran in July 2015 issue.
  
  
  o *Pine Hills Press* (print and online) – ran photo and brief in Aug. 2015 issue.
• The following media outlets ran news about the family tours at Seminole Science Charter School:
  
  o FOX 35 (broadcast and online) – attended the family tours on July 23, interviewed Becc Lester, a student and a parent, and aired and posted a story. July 23, 2015.
  
  o News13 (online) – mentioned the opening of Seminole Science Charter School in a story on STEM education. July 26, 2015.

• The following media outlets ran news about the back-to-school orientation on Aug. 8, 2015 at Seminole Science Charter School:
  
  o Channel 9 (WFTV) (broadcast) – attended the orientation, interviewed students, teachers and parents, and aired a story. Aug. 8, 2015.
  
  o News 13 (broadcast) – attended the orientation, interviewed students, teachers and parents, and aired a story. Aug. 8, 2015.
  
  o Local 6 (WKMG) (broadcast) – attended the orientation, interviewed students, teachers and parents, and aired a story. Aug. 8, 2015.
  
  o WESH 2 (broadcast) – attended the orientation, interviewed students, teachers and parents, and aired a story. Aug. 8, 2015.

• Fox 35 (WOFL) (broadcast and online) – Good Day Orlando hosted an Orlando Science Schools teacher and student for an in-studio segment, "Are you smarter than a STEM student?" Aug. 20, 2015.
The following media outlets ran news about the ribbon-cutting event on Sept. 15 at Seminole Science Charter School:

- News 13 (broadcast and online) – attended the event, interviewed teachers and aired a story. Sept. 15, 2015.

- Sanford Herald (print) – attended the event and ran two photos and cutlines. Sept. 22, 2015.

- Lake Mary Life Magazine (print) – ran photos and a story in the Nov. 2015 issue.

- Winter Springs-Oviedo Life Magazine (print) – ran photos and a story in the Nov. 2015 issue.


The following media outlets ran news about Orlando Science Schools' students and teachers honored with Raytheon awards:


- Orlando Sentinel (print and online) – interviewed Dr. Akin and Mr. Akyalcin, and ran a story. Nov. 5, 2015.

• The following outlets ran photos of Seminole Science Charter School’s Mad Science Night:
  
  o *Sanford Herald* (print) – ran a photo and cutline. Nov. 29, 2015.
  
  
  

• *Orlando Sentinel* (print and online) – ran an opinion piece on STEM education written by Dr. Akin. Dec. 15, 2105.


• Sanford Herald (print) – ran a story about students from Seminole Science Charter School celebrating their 100th day of school. Jan 31-Feb 2, 2016 issue.

• The following outlets covered Orlando Science Schools’ visit from Google Expeditions:
  
  
  
The following outlets covered Orlando Science Schools and Seminole Science Charter School's winnings at the Florida First LEGO League robotics tournament:


The following outlets covered Orlando Science Schools' achievements at Science Olympiad:


The following outlets covered the MathCounts competition:

• *Sanford Herald* (print) – covered event with Power Grid Engineering. April 16, 2016.

• *Sanford Herald* (print) – ran a story about Seminole Science Charter School’s Earth Day activities. May 3, 2016 issue.

• *Orlando Sentinel* (online) – ran a story regarding OSS expansion. May 6, 2016.


• The following outlets added the Osceola Science Charter School Preview dates to their calendars (May 21, 22, June 11, 16, 18, 25 and July 2, 2016):
  - Eventful.com
  - Eventbrite
  - American Towns
  - EvieSays.com
  - Local.com
  - ThingsToDoInOrlando.com

• The following outlets covered the Osceola Science Charter School Preview:
  - WFTV (broadcast) – aired a story. May 21 and 22, 2016. (Ran three times)
  - News 13 (broadcast) – aired a story. May 22 and 23, 2016. (Ran 19 times)

• The following outlets ran a story about Osceola Science Elementary School’s success in the OCCTM math tournament:

• *The Poinciana Pioneer* (print and online) – ran a story about Osceola Science Charter School’s opening. June 1, 2016 issue.
**Windermere**

Orlando Science Schools 11th-grader **Sebastian Oreillana** was one of 10 students presented with a Dean's List Award at this year's First Robotics Competition. Those recognized were selected out of more than 73,000 students in 19 countries. The Dean's List Award recognizes the top FRC students who demonstrate leadership qualities and a passion for science and technology. The Windermere resident was nominated by **Maribel Barea**, mentor for OSS team 4013 Clockwork Mania. "Winning this award is huge honor," Sebastian said. "I owe it all to the support of my teammates and the teachers at OSS who push us to be our best."

Will Darby, Tiago Ferreira, Julian Mackenzie, and Dave Nelson. Will and Dave are the co-owners of Willy T's Crab Shack, and Julian and Tiago work in the real estate industry. Each of them have jumped feet first into service roles within the club.

**Winter Garden**

The Winter Garden Memorial Day Service took place at Veterans Memorial Park. The event included a roll call of veterans, and a placement of wreaths was presented while patriotic songs were performed. The service recently inducted four new members —

**Rotary Club of Windermere**

President-elect **Darrell Gardner** (second from the left), President **Stephen Williams** (far right), and **Dave Nelson** (far left) with **Julian Mackenzie** into the club.

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Windermere Student Earns Top Honor

Orlando Science Schools' (OSS) robotics team, named 4013 Clockwork Mania, recently participated in the four-day FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Championship in St. Louis, Mo., which featured three different challenges.

During the event, 11th grade student, Sebastian Orellana of Windermere, was one of 10 students awarded with the Dean's List Award. These 10 students were selected out of more than 75,000 students in 19 countries. The award recognizes the top FRC students who demonstrate leadership qualities and a passion for science and technology.

"Winning this award is a huge honor," says Sebastian. "I owe it all to the support of my teammates and the teachers at OSS who push us to be our best." His teachers are proud too. "We are proud of all the students who participated in the FRC World Championship," says Dr. Yalin Akin, OSS executive director. "In addition, Sebastian's recognition speaks to how motivated and passionate our students are about applying STEM concepts."

Students Send Smiles Around the World

The students at Holy Family Catholic School (HFCS) know how to bring joy to underprivileged kids around the world — send them smiles in the form of a Happy Doll. HFCS partnered with Happy Doll, a nonprofit organization that works to support children in challenging circumstances, to design their own unique doll to pass along to a child in need.

Students received a customization kit complete with a blank cloth doll and markers for decorating. Each Happy Doll came to life as the students got creative, adding a face, clothing and an inspirational message for the child who would become the doll's owner. As the completed dolls make their way around the world — from Haiti to Kenya to Vietnam and beyond — the students are able to track where the doll they created has been sent using a unique tracking number on the organization's website.

It's not every day you can say that you brought joy to a child in need somewhere in the world, but the students at HFCS are proud to say that they can.

Dr. Phillips Rotary Honors Students

The Rotary Club of Dr. Phillips, in partnership with Dr. Phillips High School, recently awarded the Bill Sprouse Scholarship award for the 2014-15 school year to Aynmare El Bernoussi, Francine Gonzalez, Ellen Laaker, Aanchel Shah, and Sarah Shearburn. To apply for the scholarship, students were required to have a 2.0 weighted GPA, display traits of good citizenship, participate in service activities in the community and extracurricular activities, and write an essay reflecting how the Rotary's 4-Way Test could affect their lives.

The Rotary also welcomed Victoria Cancina, Leila Hafizbegovic, Alvia Junaiddeen, Hannah Leeds, Scotty Michael, Alexis Norman, Nicolina Trimarche, and Samantha Watters to the 30th Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. The students gave a short presentation about how the conference helped them develop qualities in self-confidence, leadership and citizenship. The goal of the conference was for students to return to their school and community to utilize the skills they developed through their participation in club activities like Student Council and Interact Club.
"OSS" Student Receives Coveted Dean's List Award.

Eleventh grade Orlando Science School student, Sebastian Oreilly, was one of 10 students presented with the Dean's List Award at this year's FIRST® Robotics Competition (FRC) Championship. Sebastian was selected out of more than 73,000 students in 19 countries. He is standing third from left in photo. Winners are nominated by their team mentors. For OSS, Maribel Barea has served as the team’s lead for several years. The four-day World Championship was held in St. Louis, Mo., in late April. Orlando Science Schools, a public charter school, is approved by the Orange County School Board as an elementary, middle and high school. The mission of OSS is to provide a well-rounded education with special emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, (STEM) and Reading in the light of research-based, proven and innovative instructional methods in a stimulating environment. Orlando Science Schools currently serves grades K–12. For more information, visit www.orlandoscience.org.

Habitat for Humanity Receives $35,000

Greater Orlando Area Habitat for Humanity was recently presented with a $35,000 donation from Jon M. Hall Company, a Longwood-based site development company. The donation—which was also funded by subcontractors of Jon M. Hall—will help support the construction activity at Butler’s Preserve, Habitat Greater Orlando’s new community of 59 homes in Greater Washington Shores.

Photo (from left to right)
Patrick Mangold, Inside Sales, Hayes Pipe Supply, Inc.
• Ben Burkett, Project Manager, Jon M. Hall Company
• Jon Hall, Jr., Vice President, Jon M. Hall Company
• Keith Carson, President, Jon M. Hall Company
• Trey Peterson, Branch Manager, Hayes Pipe Supply, Inc.
• Catherine Stock McManus, President and CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando
• Terry Eckert, Director of Construction, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando

Habitat recently hosted a wall raising for U.S. Marine veteran Brian Arndt and his wife Victoria Bradley. Nearly 60 volunteers participated. Arndt was paralyzed in a motorcycle accident a year ago and reached out to Habitat Greater Orlando because his home was not ADA compliant.

Lion of Judah Academy
Prek-9th Grade 7:30am-4pm Monday-Friday We Accept Step-Up and McKay Scholarships Now Enrolling

Small Class Size
BEKA Curriculum & Others
After School Activities
Free & Reduced Lunch Program

407-557-8116
Pick-Up & Drop Off at Various Designated Bus Stops
If you can believe it, you can achieve it!
1056 North Pine Hills Road, Orlando 32808
www.LionofJudahofOrlando.com
Nutritious Summer Meals

When school is out for the summer months, many students don't have access to the healthy meals they would be eating if they were in school. So Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Department is offering meals at all schools with summer programs and community partner sites through August 21.

OCPS will employ approximately 400 FNS employees at seven central kitchens, who will prepare and deliver an estimated 800,000 meals to over 230 sites. The menu will feature freshly made sandwiches, salads, fresh fruits and vegetables, and 100 percent fruit juice and milk.

New this year, OCPS is partnering with the Orange County Public Library system to provide lunch meals at two library branches. The OCPS Food Bus will be at the Hiawassee library branch from 12:15 p.m. and at the South Trail library branch from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch will be hosted in community rooms at the libraries, which plan to have activities available to coincide with the meal. The Food Bus will serve approximately 100 meals a day at the two library locations, which totals more than 5,000 meals this summer.

National Merit Scholarship Winners

Orange County Public Schools recently celebrated six graduating high school seniors from the 2015 school year who were chosen as National Merit $2,500 Scholarship winners. The winners were chosen from a pool of 15,000 outstanding finalists in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. Winners were the finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

This year’s winners are: Erica Lindbeck of Dr. Phillips High School who plans to study electrical engineering, Matthew J. Shinner of Boone High School who plans to study physics, Ashika A. Stephen of Olympia High School who plans to study finance, Charline V. Chen of Dr. Phillips High School who plans to study medicine, Emily K. Crowell of West Orange High School who plans to study international law, and Karen Sun of Winter Park High School who plans to study surgical medicine.

One of America’s Most Challenging Schools

The Washington Post has included Orlando Science Schools (OSS) on its annual list of the country’s most challenging high schools. OSS was ranked 61 out of more than 2,300 high schools across the United States. This ranking places OSS in the top 1 percent of the most challenging high schools in the country.

The list is based on the number of college-level tests that each ranked school delivers each year divided by the number of graduates for the same school year. "We are so proud to be included in this prestigious national list," says Dr. Yalcin Akin, executive director for Orlando Science Schools. "It's rewarding to see that our students are being recognized for their hard work."

Within the state of Florida, Orlando Science Schools ranked 14th. Orlando Science Schools is a public charter school that serves elementary, middle and high school students. Its mission is to provide students with a well-rounded education with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and reading.
Orlando Science Schools Recognized By The Washington Post As One Of “2015 America’s Most Challenging High Schools”

ORLANDO — Orlando Science Schools (OSS) was recently ranked in The Washington Post’s annual list of most challenging high schools. OSS was rated #61 out of more than 2,300 schools across the nation, putting the school in the top 1 percent of high schools in the country.

The list is based on college-level tests that are given at each of the ranked schools, divided by the number of graduates for the same school year. Tests include Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Advanced International Certificate of Education exams.

“We are so proud to be included in this prestigious national list,” said Dr. Yalcin Akin, Orlando Science Schools’ executive director. “It’s rewarding that our students are being recognized for their hard work.”

In Florida, OSS also ranked #14.
Orlando Science Schools Student Finishes Ninth At The Scripps National Spelling Bee - Sivona Mishra, Orlando resident and sixth-grade student at Orlando Science Schools, recently finished ninth out of 285 spellers at the Scripps National Spelling Bee. At 11 years old, Sivona was the youngest of the ten remaining contestants in the competition. Because of her age, Sivona could qualify for the national spelling bee two more times should she choose to compete.
One of America's Most Challenging Schools

The Washington Post has included Orlando Science Schools (OSS) on its annual list of the country's most challenging high schools. OSS was ranked 61st out of more than 2,300 high schools across the United States. This ranking places OSS in the top 1 percent of the most challenging high schools in the country.

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Local Student in National Spelling Bee

Siyaona Mishra is an 11-year-old sixth grader at Orlando Science Schools who recently finished ninth out of 285 spellers at the Scripps National Spelling Bee. This Orlando resident won the Orlando Sentinel's 56th annual spelling bee in March to advance to the national competition.

Siyaona was the youngest of the 10 remaining contestants. She has the opportunity to qualify for the national spelling bee two more times because of her young age.

Disney Dreamers and Doers Shining Stars

Walt Disney World Resorts honored 15 Central Florida students as 2015 Disney Dreamers and Doers Shining Stars. These students were recognized for making a difference through their kindness, ability to inspire others, outstanding character and exceptional achievements.

Educators from Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, and Seminole counties chose nearly 300 students to highlight as 2015 Disney Dreamers and Doers. A panel then chose the 15 shining stars from elementary, middle and high school.

"Each year, we're moved by the compassion, creativity and hard work of our community's young people," says Nancy Gidusko, director of corporate citizenship at Walt Disney World Resort. "Everyone has a vision for a better world, but as Disney Dreamers and Doers Shining Stars, these young people are acting on theirs."

Disney Dreamers and Doers Shining Stars were awarded a Mickey Mouse statue known as a 'Mousecar.' a gold medallion, as well as annual theme park passes for themselves and their immediate family members. Honoraries and their families were recognized at an Illuminations Dessert Party on June 27 at Epcot.
ORLANDO SCIENCE SCHOOLS
Student Finishes Ninth At The Scripps National Spelling Bee

ORLANDO – Siyona Mishra, Orlando resident and sixth-grade student at Orlando Science Schools, recently finished ninth out of 285 spellers at the Scripps National Spelling Bee. She advanced to the national competition after winning the Orlando Sentinel’s 56th annual spelling bee in March.

At 11 years old, Siyona was the youngest of the ten remaining contestants in the competition. Because of her age, Siyona could qualify for the national spelling bee two more times should she choose to compete.

“We are very proud of Siyona’s success at the Scripps National Spelling Bee,” said Dr. Yalcin Akin, executive director of Orlando Science Schools. “We are happy to see that her hard work and diligence has paid off after competing in two previous Orlando Sentinel spelling bees.”

In recognition of her ninth-place finish, Siyona received a medal from Scripps, a $100 U.S. Savings Bond, a $1,500 cash prize, and prizes from Microsoft, Merriam-Webster and Encyclopedia Britannica.
So What Else is New?

Orlando Science Schools Finishes 9th at Scripps National Spelling Bee. Sixth grade Orlando Science School student, Siyona Mishra, recently finished ninth out of 283 spellers at the Scripps National Spelling Bee. She advanced to the national competition after winning the Orlando Sentinel’s 56th annual spelling bee in March.

Heart of Florida United Way’s Day of Action is a community-wide, one-day volunteer event to help maintain reading proficiency while children are away from the classroom. Volunteers engaged in a variety of activities, including reading aloud and playing word scramble games to encourage reading and foster literacy in young people. The event impacted 2,300 children who each took home at least six free books. The volunteers pictured were from Pepsi, who visited the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida Disney Branch.

KUDOS!

Students, Inc. (POPS) recently held its second annual professional luncheon showcasing its 203 senior students from around the state. The seniors come from a number of Florida counties and in spite of difficult circumstances will now be attending over 30 colleges and universities or entering the military as a career choice. A snapshot of schools they will be attending: Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University, Florida Police Academy (Broward), Florida State College St. Petersbury College, University of Florida and Vassar College, to name a few.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando recently celebrated the home dedication of Orma “Teisha” Brown. For more than a decade, her three teenage children have shared one room in the family’s two bedroom apartment. Now, her twin girls and older son will have rooms of their own. In addition to completing 300 sweat equity hours, Brown participated in nearly 20 homeownership preparedness classes. All Habitat homeowners purchase their home and pay a zero percent interest mortgage loan.

The Professional Opportunities Program for
GETTING
SCHOOLED

STEM SCHOOLS
LAKE MARY, SEMINOLE COUNTY
Lack of job qualified job applicants prompts push for STEM education

The focus of GE Foundation's STEM conference in Orlando July 26 through 30 is on the urgent need to get more STEM curriculum – or Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – into elementary, middle and high school classrooms.

By Jeffrey Allen, Reporter
Last Updated: Sunday, July 26, 2015, 6:13 PM

ORLANDO -- Educators say local employers are having trouble filling open manufacturing jobs because not enough local graduates have the right skills to do the job. That's why there's a big push to get more STEM education into the classroom.

Thanks to STEM education, Andrea Lane will likely have no problem landing a civil engineering job when she graduates from college.

"STEM teaches you the way to think about it. Not necessarily what to think, but how to think about the different solutions of a problem," said Lane, a junior at Cleveland State University.

Lane is joining hundreds of educators and fellow students at the GE Foundation's STEM conference in Orlando July 26 – 30. The conference's focus is on the urgent need to get more STEM curriculum – or Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – into elementary, middle and high school classrooms.

Employers like GE say it's what they're looking for when hiring for new positions.
“So if we’re trying to train for the next technology, innovation idea that comes up, we need to have students that are innovators, that are builders, that are creators and are thinkers that can help us and lead us into that 21st century,” said Kelli Wells, Executive Director of the GE Foundation’s Education and Skills program.

Local school districts are working to infuse more STEM into their teaching. And charter schools like Orlando Science Schools just opened up a new campus in Seminole County focused primarily on STEM learning.

Andrea Lane went to a STEM-focused high school in Cleveland where she got to learn from, and network with, engineers from potential future employers like GE and NASA. She’s now working to promote STEM teaching so that more students across the country get the opportunities she did.

“You don’t have to be a genius to work for GE but be willing and innovative, just that type of thinker. It benefits you in both ways, instead of just learning it for a test,” said Lane.

The GE Foundation STEM conference is underway at Disney’s Yacht and Beach Club Convention Center through Thursday, but if you can’t be there you can follow the conference discussion by checking #GEFSTEMSkills on Twitter.
August 8, 2015
11 p.m.

Ken Tyndall
@KTyndallWFTV

New School

Kimberly Blandford
Parent
August 8, 2015
6 p.m.

STEM CHARTER SCHOOL SET TO OPEN

83° DELAND
13 WEATHER EXPERTS: THE LATE DEVELOPING EAST COAST
August 8, 2015
11 p.m.

New STEM School Opens This Fall
Seminole County
Are you smarter than a STEM student?
Seminole Science Charter School ribbon cutting

Ribbon cutting with From left to right: Gina Dole, Kia Scott, Dr. Yalcin Akh and Seminole County Commissioner Bob Dallari.

Herald photos by Susan Wenner
The Seminole Science Stem Charter School opened this school year.
Seminole Science Charter School (SSCS), an affiliate of Orlando Science Schools, recently expanded into Seminole County, officially opening its doors for the 2015-2016 school year. The STEM-focused public charter school (science, technology, engineering, and math) serves grades K through 8 and features small classes and high-tech classroom tools.

“Our school is dedicated to meeting STEM needs, preparing students for their future, and providing an elite education,” says Dr. Yalcin Akin, SSCS executive director. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, attendees were invited to tour the new school campus and get a firsthand look at hands-on classroom projects.
ACCORDING TO THE U.S. NATIONAL
Research Council and the National Science
Foundation, the fields associated with STEM
subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering,
and Mathematics) are collectively consid-
ered core technological underpinnings of
an advanced society. Many pundits believe
that the strength of the STEM workforce is
viewed as an indicator of a nation’s ability
to sustain itself. So when the new Seminole
Science Charter School (SSCS) opened
its doors in Lake Mary for the 2015-2016
school year, the mission was simple: em-
power all students with advanced STEM
education in a nurturing, positive environ-
ment so they can realize their full potential.

“Our highest priority is to get our students
ready for high school and beyond,” says
Yunus Aksu, SSCS principal. “The children
need to be committed and motivated to learn
and excel. We’re very fortunate that our
students and parents are totally on board.”

A tuition-free public charter school, SSCS
currently offers a K-5 curriculum, but the
plan is to add one grade per year for the
next three years to achieve K-8 status. The
school is modeled after the very successful
Orlando Science Schools located in Orange
County. SSCS offers a full-time gifted
program, hands-on and project-based
learning approaches, and a research-based
curriculum that encourages students to
think above and beyond to reach their
highest educational goals.

The philosophy behind creating Seminole
Science Charter School, which was
approved by the Seminole County School
Board and is funded by the state, is that
an educated citizen in the 21st century
must have the skills and understanding
to participate and work productively
in a multicultural, globally-oriented
environment. These skills include the ability
to use technology to its full potential in the
new millennium.

Principal Aksu stresses that although the
focus of the curriculum is on STEM, the
school offers the full spectrum of classes, in-
cluding a world-class language arts program.
He is particularly proud of the fact that the
school offers various extracurricular activi-
ties such as robotics, math competitions, and
Science Olympiad, all designed to enhance
each student’s educational experience.

Students at the new Seminole Science Charter
School in Lake Mary are already “up to their
elbows” in advanced science experiments and
other critical-thinking exercises.

The school has high expectations of its
students, and the goal is to develop student
awareness of local and community needs
as well as an understanding of national and
global issues, all while embracing each
student’s unique learning style.

“Every child thinks and learns differently,
and we embrace that here,” says Principal
Aksu. “The students have been put in the
best possible situation to succeed, and
it’s so nice to see that they appreciate
the opportunity to learn and excel. As an
administrator, you can’t ask for more.”
SEMINOLE SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL Opens in Lake Mary

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“Our school is dedicated to meeting STEM needs, preparing students for their future, and providing an elite education,” says Dr Yalcin Akin, SSCS executive director. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, attendees were invited to tour the new school campus and get a firsthand look at hands-on classroom projects.

1. Becc Lester, SSCS administrative assistant; Michael Singleton, SSCS elementary principal; Yunus Aksu, SSCS principal; Gina Dole, SSCS senior administrator; Kä Scott, director of School Choice Orange County; Dr Yalcin Akin, SSCS executive director; and Bob Dallari, Seminole County commissioner
2. Students in science class
4. Kä Scott, Bob Dallari, Gina Dole, Dr Yalcin Akin, and Yunus Aksu
5. Students in PE class
Seminoles Science Charter School

by Jack Roth

ACCORDING TO THE U.S. NATIONAL Research Council and the National Science Foundation, the fields associated with STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) are collectively considered core technological underpinnings of an advanced society. Many pundits believe that the strength of the STEM workforce is viewed as an indicator of a nation’s ability to sustain itself. So when the new Seminole Science Charter School (SSCS) opened its doors in Lake Mary for the 2015-2016 school year, the mission was simple: empower all students with advanced STEM education in a nurturing, positive environment so they can realize their full potential.

“Our highest priority is to get our students ready for high school and beyond,” says Yunus Aksu, SSCS principal. “The children need to be committed and motivated to learn and excel. We’re very fortunate that our students and parents are totally on board.”

A tuition-free public charter school, SSCS currently offers a K-5 curriculum, but the plan is to add one grade per year for the next three years to achieve K-8 status. The school is modeled after the very successful Orlando Science Schools located in Orange County. SSCS offers a full-time gifted program, hands-on and project-based learning approaches, and a research-based curriculum that encourages students to think above and beyond to reach their highest educational goals.

The philosophy behind creating Seminole Science Charter School, which was approved by the Seminole County School Board and is funded by the state, is that an educated citizen in the 21st century must have the skills and understanding to participate and work productively in a multicultural, globally-oriented environment. These skills include the ability to use technology to its full potential in the new millennium.

Principal Aksu stresses that although the focus of the curriculum is on STEM, the school offers the full spectrum of classes, including a world-class language arts program. He is particularly proud of the fact that the school offers various extracurricular activities such as robotics, math competitions, and Science Olympiad, all designed to enhance each student’s educational experience.

Students at the new Seminole Science Charter School in Lake Mary are already “up to their elbows” in advanced science experiments and other critical-thinking exercises.

The school has high expectations of its students, and the goal is to develop student awareness of local and community needs as well as an understanding of national and global issues, all while embracing each student’s unique learning style.

“Every child thinks and learns differently, and we embrace that here,” says Principal Aksu. “The students have been put in the best possible situation to succeed, and it’s so nice to see that they appreciate the opportunity to learn and excel. As an administrator, you can’t ask for more.”
COUNTY by COUNTY

FAMILY NIGHT
SEMINOLE SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL

Begins at 5 p.m.
EDUCATION

Grandparents join students for breakfast at Seminole Science Charter School
Orlando Science Schools Students And Teachers Recognized With Raytheon Company Grants For Excellence In Math

ORLANDO – Orlando Science Schools (OSS) students Sangana Konda and Esha Ranade from Orlando, and Minh Le, Megham Tulluri and Tran Le from Winter Garden were five of the 150 applicants nationwide chosen to receive a MathMovesU scholarship from the Raytheon Company.

The OSS students worked with their instructors to submit a multimedia presentation about the importance of mathematics. The scholarship can be used for a math, science or technology program, or for the first year of college.

Math teachers Mr. Abdullah Akylein and Mrs. Ozyyen Akylein were also honored with the prestigious Raytheon Company “Math Heroes” award. This award recognizes instructors for their creativity in demonstrating the wonders of math and science in their classrooms.

Maitland residents Mr. and Mrs. Akylein are two of the 25 teachers across the country to win the award for using interactive and creative learning approaches in the classroom to keep students engaged in mathematics. Nominated by parents, students and colleagues, each winner is awarded $2,500 in addition to a matching grant for his or her school.

“We are so proud to have our instructors recognized for their innovative approaches to teaching math,” said Dr. Yaelin Aklyn, Orlando Science Schools’ executive director. “At Orlando Science Schools, we emphasize hands-on, project-based instruction to help our students reach their fullest potential and get excited about careers in the STEM fields.”

Instructors Mr. and Mrs. Akylein plan to use their grants to take the students on a field trip to the National Museum of Mathematics in New York City to celebrate their accomplishments.
Education Bulletin

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+  October 29, 2015 10:02 a.m.

OSS students and teachers recognized

Orlando Science Schools students Sanjana Konda and Esha Ranade from Orlando, and Minh Le, Meghana Telluri and Tran Le from Winter Garden were five of the 150 applicants nationwide chosen to receive a MathMovesU scholarship from the Raytheon Company. The OSS students worked with their instructors to submit a multimedia presentation about the importance of mathematics. The scholarship can be used for a math, science or technology program, or for the first year of college. Math teachers Mr. Ender Akyalcin and Mrs. Ozlem Akyalcin were also honored with the prestigious Raytheon Company "Math Heroes" award. This award recognizes instructors for their creativity in demonstrating the wonders of math and science in their classrooms. Maitland residents Mr. and Mrs. Akyalcin are two of the 25 teachers across the country to win the award for using interactive and creative learning approaches in the classroom to keep students engaged in mathematics. Nominated by parents, students and colleagues, each winner is awarded $2,500 in addition to a matching grant for his or her school.

Trinity Prep swimmers beat national record

Trinity Preparatory School swimmers traveled to Montverde Academy on Oct. 9 and made a statement with Claire Maiocco and the ladies 200 Freestyle Relay. Claire Maiocco broke the 100 Butterfly National Short Course Meters National Record with 1:01.06 and the speedy quartet of Grace Olivardin, Caroline White, Claire Maiocco and Summer Heidish broke the National Record in the 200 Freestyle Relay with a 1:46.98. Trinity Preparatory School competes in FHSAA 1A and their state competition is Nov. 6 in Stuart. Their team is looking for big things this fall.

ALSO ON WINTER PARK / MAITLAND OBSERVER

Oviedo couple works to make e-cigs safer
1 comment • 4 months ago
Nate — The American Lung Association was long ago co-opted by the pharmaceutical industry (just look at ...

Chris Jepson: Her body, her business
5 comments • 3 months ago
sandra — I'm sure the Republicans would prefer to return to the good ole days, when all of this was ...

Plans to fill in part of Maitland lake cause tension
3 comments • 8 days ago
Lee Atkins — Thanks for this article, the developer could be a responsible neighbor but tries time and time again ...

50 Cent to make Oviedo appearance
1 comment • 2 months ago
jamaicajoes — Gimme a bottle of that effin' vodka. Real Classy!

Orlando Science Schools is now making math fun

BY MICHAEL W. FREEMAN
College Park Parent Editor

Recently, Abdulkarim and Oziem Akyadin, a couple who live in Midland, were honored by the Raytheon Company.

Raytheon selected the two because they teach math teachers at Orlando Science Schools, the charter school at 2426 Lyceum Lane in College Park, which specializes in STEM—science, technology, engineering and math—education programs.

The Akyadins were honored with the Raytheon Company’s “Math Heroes” award—two of only 25 teachers across the country to be given the award for using interactive and creative learning approaches in the classroom to keep students engaged in mathematics.

Abdulkarim Akyadin said afterwards that there is a clear reason why a firm like Raytheon gets out of its way to encourage creative math teachers—and to ensure they continue to find ways to keep students interested in this subject.

“Raytheon is a big company, and they need future engineers, and that’s why they support STEM education all the time,” Akyadin said.

The company also recognized him, adding that many of the jobs being created today—also many of the jobs of the future—are ones that definitely require workers proficient with skills in math and engineering.

“Most of our students, when I ask them what they want to do (for a career), I am always getting two common answers—doctor in a medical field, and engineer,” Akyadin said. “Both of these require a knowledge of math.”

To engage his students, Akyadin said he sponsors math competitions that teach his students to work in teams.

“Each year, when we begin, I set up a program at our school, a competitive math program,” he said. “We have been studying with those kids five days a week—and even on Saturdays, sometimes. I ask them to come in on Saturdays. ‘I always try to make math more fun for them.”

Akyadin added, “I especially make it a competition environment. When you teach math like that, our students are more engaged. In most of our competitions, they work in teams of four, and it helps to increase their social skills. It’s kind of a family.”

And speaking of families, Akyadin also brings the parents into the process as well, as they participate in competitions in other parts of the state, and travel together.

“We recently had a math competition in Fort Myers, and we will travel together,” he said. “It’s a kind of a big family and everybody is having fun. Parents and students, they love the program, and they get great benefits from it.”

What parents come to understand, Akyadin added, is that their children are on an educational path that will make them highly competitive later in the job market.

“Parents also see their kids are getting ready for high school and even the college path—and they see what they need for a future like,” he said.

Raytheon is also enormously helpful, he added, for sponsoring scholarships for math and engineering students, and for sponsoring math camp competitions.

“When they first came here, we said ‘We need help in funding!’ and they were more than happy to help us,” Akyadin said. “My math department also got a matching grant, and I’m using those funds to register our students in more math competitions.”

http://editions.orsolinel.com/oolive/ODE/orlandosentinel2/PrintPages/View.htm

1/1
Orlando Science Schools math teachers Mr. Abdulkerim Akyalcin and Mrs. Ozlem Akyalcin are shown receiving prestigious Raytheon Company “Math Heroes” awards. They are two of the only 25 teachers across the country to win the award for using interactive and creative learning approaches in the classroom to keep students engaged in mathematics. Five students were also awarded with scholarships. Recently Anum Ali, an Ocoee resident and student at Orlando Science Schools, recently placed second among more than 40,000 students in the country competing in Sumdog’s weekly math competition.
Seminole Science Charter School hosts Mad Science Night

Seminole Science Charter School recently hosted a “Mad Science Night” where students and parents had the opportunity to take part in creepy, crawly science experiments.

Photo contributed
Snapshots

Mad Science Night

Local kids participated in a Mad Science Night presented by Seminole Science Charter School last month.

4. Students and teachers got messy in creepy-crawly science experiments.

5. The kids worked together to make sure their experiments were successful.
Mad Scientist Night at Seminole Science Charter School

Ooey Gooey Slime, Super Duper Bouncy Balls, Lava Lamps, and Erupting Apples. These were just a few of the mad science experiments available for students and their parents to enjoy at the Seminole Science Charter School's recent Mad Scientist Night. Families moved from station to station throughout the evening to engage in all sorts of scientific tomfoolery. When tummies began to grumble, pizza and snacks were available in the cafeteria. Like every lesson at Seminole Science Charter School, the activities were equal parts fun and educational. Who knew science could be so enjoyable? The staff and students at Seminole Science Charter School, that's who.

1. Cosa Bass and Chloe Aungst use a combination of household products to write secret messages that can only be revealed under the heat of a blow-dryer.
2. Sabina and Garth Visovatti
3. Ivetta Ramos and Aidan Delgado
4. Robin and Davis Bennett
5. Lee Abraham
6. Using the classic combo of baking soda and vinegar, Yael Marker creates an eruption inside an apple.
Mad Scientist Night at Seminole Science Charter School

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1. Cora Bass and Chloe Aungst use a combination of household products to write secret messages that can only be revealed under the heat of a blowdryer.
2. Sabina and Garth Visocatti
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5. Lee Abraham
6. Using the classic combo of baking soda and vinegar, Yael Marker creates an eruption inside an apple.
Local Viewpoint

Cultivating Orlando's next generation of STEM leaders

These are promising times for Central Florida's economy. From schools to startups, a growing focus on the STEM-related fields of science, technology, engineering and math is putting us on the map — and creating tremendous potential for high-paying, in-demand jobs.

In September, Bloomberg Businessweek included Orlando and Palm Bay in an article titled “The Unlikely Cities That Will Power the U.S. Economy.” The average annual salary for STEM jobs in these two cities is $69,490 and $62,230, respectively.

Aviation Week magazine recently ranked UCF, which has more than 9,000 students in its College of Engineering and Computer Science, the No. 1 supplier of employees for the aerospace and defense industry.

And in just its first year, the OrlandoX festival sold more than 5,600 tickets to people who wanted to learn about the latest advancements in entertainment technology, interactive media and digital arts.

Of course, several other examples also point to Central Florida's emerging presence as a STEM leader. Each day, it seems, the local news has even more exciting stories that document our progress.

My Word:
Yalcin Akin is executive director of Orlando Science Schools, which serves grades K-12, and Seminole Science Charter School for elementary students.

It won't be long until these children are entering an "advanced industries" workforce where wages have grown five times faster than the U.S. average since 1975.

Of development — and I can tell you that, based on young talent alone, our region has plenty of reason for optimism.

As executive director of Orlando Science Schools, I'm in a unique position to help the next generation of scientists, inventors, statisticians, software developers, mechanical engineers — and all sorts of innovative thinkers — acquire knowledge through hands-on, project-based learning.

It won't be long until these children are entering an “advanced industries” workforce where, according to Bloomberg, wages have grown five times faster than the U.S. average since 1975.

To accommodate more opportunities for area students to gain a comprehensive understanding of STEM education — and better prepare them for successful careers — Orlando Science Schools opened a Seminole County campus this fall for grades K-5, with expansion planned in the coming years.

Across Central Florida, I know that other schools are making similar commitments to STEM studies as well, which is encouraging because investing in our children's academic future is exactly the kind of foresight we need to drive our region's ongoing economic transformation.
By Annie Martin

Staff Writer

LAKE MARY — Shrinidhi Raghavan held her creation — colorful gumdrops and toothpicks in the shape of a dome — as she sat at a lab table. This was a typical day at Seminole Science Charter School, the bespectacled 7-year-old said.

“We build stuff,” said Shrinidhi. “One time we built something with marshmallows, and at the end we got to eat them.”

The first-grader is among 370 students at the Lake Mary school, which opened in August. Seminole Science Charter School is one of four charter schools in the county, an A-rated district that ranks among the best in the state. The new charter school has about 1,000 students on its waiting list.
The Seminole school is an offshoot of the successful Orlando Science Schools, which serve elementary, middle and high students in Orange County. The middle and high campus opened in 2008, while the elementary campus opened in 2012. The two schools have mostly earned A grades from the state.

Yalein Akin, who is the executive director and one of the founders of the Orange and Seminole schools, said he started the programs because he saw a need for math- and science-centered education in the Orlando area.

He had fielded calls for years from Seminole parents who wanted to send their children to the Orlando schools, but they couldn't because the schools were only open to Orange residents. He said he wanted to wait to open a Seminole program until the timing was right.

“For us, it took some time, because I am a strong believer in quality education,” said Akin, the father of two current students.

Charter schools are publicly funded and privately managed under the authority of the local school boards. Students from throughout the county are eligible to attend.

Seminole Science Charter attracts families who were “craving something different,” said Christina Stangl, an administrator overseeing curriculum. At the Seminole school, students have physical education every day and an art class at least once a week. Gifted students have access to a full-day accelerated program.

The Orlando programs have stood out, with the high school earning 61st place earlier this year in the Washington Post's annual ranking of the country's most challenging high schools. The school has posted several first-place finishes in the state Science Olympiad competition. Students on the robotics team regularly attend a world championship competition.

Orange and Seminole school officials spoke favorably of the schools. Robin Dehlinger, who oversees charter schools for Seminole, said she’s visited the school a couple of times and hasn't heard any major complaints from parents.

“So far we've had a positive experience with them,” she said.

At least once a week, Seminole students rotate through Kevin Grece's classroom, where Shrinidhi and her classmates built their domes. Grece teaches a supplemental STEM course in addition to the math and science students see in their regular classrooms. In teaching young children about difficult subjects like engineering, Grece said he starts with the basics and incorporates hands-on activities.
“They’ve seen these things that we’re talking about, but they just don’t think about it when they are outside of school,” Grece said.

Stacy Lee conceded enrolling her daughter, Ella, in a brand-new school was nerve-wracking. But she decided to try it after attending an open house at the Orlando campus. And she’s glad she did. Ella, a third-grader, wasn’t being challenged in her traditional public school. She was often relegated to sitting at a computer while her teacher helped her classmates catch up with the instruction.

“The academic level was not there,” Lee said.

That’s changed this year, as Ella has participated in the school’s accelerated program and joined the yearbook club after school.

Fifth-grader Amber Ni agrees the course work at Seminole Science Charter school is hard. She's also involved with the robotics club and recently completed a project on recycling plastic bottles. At age 10, she's already hoping the school will help her get into a better college, and eventually, a better job.

“When we had easy work [at my old school], I felt like I wasn't being challenged enough,” Amber said.

Aside from a heavy math and science focus, students at the Orlando middle and high school have access to instruction in an unusual foreign language: Turkish.

 Asked about why the school offers the language, Akin, who is Turkish, points out it is listed as a “critical” language by the U.S. Department of State and college students who take it are eligible for scholarships to study overseas. Akin said he estimates about 40 percent of the students at the Orlando school choose to take Turkish. Children can start foreign language courses as early as sixth grade.

Anmartin@orlandosentinel.com or 407-420-5120.
OCOEE STUDENTS PLACE SECOND IN THE COUNTRY IN SUMDOG CONTEST

Orlando Science Schools student Anum Ali, recently placed second among more than 40,000 students in the country competing in Sumdog's weekly math competition.
Student Achievement

8. Charisma Tran, a student at Orlando Science Elementary School, won the Florida Citrus Parade Drawing Contest and was chosen as the honorary grand marshal for the 2015 Citrus Parade.
Seminole Science students celebrate 100 days

Seminole Science Charter School celebrated their 100th day of school by dressing up as 100-year-olds.
Above - left to right: Kailani Marrero-Rodriguez, Savia Crowell, and Arielz Colon-Medina.
Below - left to right: Greyson Leider and Oliver Dugan.
ORLANDO SCIENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOSTS GOOGLE’S EXPEDITIONS PIONEER PROGRAM

ORLANDO — Students at Orlando Science Elementary School (OSES) recently had the opportunity to take part in Google’s Expeditions Pioneer Program on campus. Expeditions is a virtual reality platform built for the classroom that allows teachers to take students on virtual field trips. Google is currently sending Expeditions Pioneer Program teams to schools around the world to demonstrate the new technology.

Providing virtual field trips that can’t be achieved by sending students on a school bus, Expeditions immerses students in experiences beyond the classroom. The Wildlife Conservation Society, PBS, the American Museum of Natural History, the Planetary Society and the Palace of Versailles contributed to developing the educational encounters. The “trips” are collections of virtual reality panoramas — 360° photo spheres, 3D images and video, ambient sounds — annotated with details, points of interest, and questions that make them easy to integrate into curricula already used in schools.

“As a STEM-focused school, we are always looking for new ways to integrate more innovative technology in the classroom to give our students the most effective and engaging learning environment,” said Dr. Yalcın Akin, executive director of Orlando Science Schools. “We were thrilled to be selected for a visit from Google’s Expeditions Pioneer Program. The virtual field trips will bring to life the abstract concepts our students are currently studying, broadening their horizons.”

Students at Orlando Science Elementary School experienced Google Cardboard — a virtual reality viewer for phones — during the Winter Robotics and Legos Invitational and will be able to experience it again later this year during the Spring Robotics and Legos Invitational in April.
Google Tests Virtual Field Trip Program

Technology has permeated our domestic and work life, and now, it stands to embed itself into school field trips through Google's Expeditions Pioneer Program. Students at Orlando Science Elementary School (OSES) recently had the chance to participate in the program by experiencing Google Cardboard, a virtual reality viewer for phones, during the Winter Robotics and Legos Invitational. They will experience it again during the same event in the spring.

Google selected schools around the world, including OSES, to test the innovative program, which allows teachers to take students on virtual field trips around the globe. The American Museum of Natural History, the Planetary Society, and the Palace of Versailles, among other organizations, have all had a hand in developing the virtual encounters, which will be a collection of panoramas, ambient sounds and 3D images and video.

"As a STEM-focused school, we are always looking for new ways to integrate more innovative technology in the classroom to give our students the most effective and engaging learning environment," Dr. Yelkin Akin, executive director at OSES, says. "We were thrilled to be selected for a visit from Google's Expeditions Pioneer Program. The virtual field trips will bring to life the abstract concepts our students are currently studying, broadening their horizons."
Learning Is Fun!

Local schools recently hosted the Google Expeditions Pioneer Program at their campus. Students from Orlando Science Elementary School are pictured using Expeditions, a virtual reality platform built for the classroom that allows teachers to take students on virtual field trips. Expeditions immerses students in experiences beyond the classroom. The "trips" are collections of virtual reality panoramas—360° photo spheres, 3D images and video, ambient sounds—amplified with details, points of interest, and questions that make them easy to integrate into curricula already used in schools. Google is currently sending Expeditions Pioneer Program teams to schools around the world to demonstrate the new technology.

Students at Seminole Science Charter School and Orlando Science Elementary Robotics Teams were Honored At Florida's First Lego League Pre-Qualifying Tournaments, recently receiving top prizes at the League's robotics tournaments.

Local Artists Recognized

Orlando Science School student, Charming Tran, won a ride in the Florida Citrus Parade as Honorary Grand Marshall for her drawing of the football Classic at the Citrus Bowl.
Seminole Science Charter School wins numerous trophies

Seminole Science Charter School in Sanford recently took home trophies from Florida FIRST LEGO League and Florida FIRST LEGO League Jr. Robotics tournaments.
ORLANDO SCIENCE ELEMENTARY

Orlando Science Elementary School competed recently in Florida First Lego League Jr.'s Winter Invitational robotics tournament. The kindergarten through second- and third-grade teams that competed that day took home the Out of the Box Award, Team Spirit Award and two STEM-tastic awards for using multiple STEM components in their design.

OSES's sister school, Seminole Science Charter, also took home trophies.

The winning teams are competing at the Florida FLL and Florida FLL Jr. qualifying tournaments this month to determine eligible teams for the regional tournament.
Seminole Science Charter School
And Orlando Science Elementary
Robotics Teams Honored At Florida FLL
Pre-Qualifying Tournaments

LAKE MARY — Seminole Science Charter School (SSCS) recently took home trophies from Florida FIRST LEGO League (Florida FLL) and Florida FIRST LEGO League Jr. (Florida FLL Jr.) robotics tournaments. Two of SSCS’s robotics teams — Microbots and Trash TournaMentors — took home top honors in FLL’s Pink Panther Rumble V pre-qualifying tournament at Kennedy Middle School in Reclède.

Among the 16 teams competing at the tournament, two SSCS teams received first place in Robot Design and Core Values. The Microbots team, including fourth and fifth grade students Jackson D’Nely, Niyi Jofahi, Liliana Leider, Rishvik Marpa, Sabina Viswanati, Kirthik Nagarjna, Aditya Nair, Amber Ni, Brady Schwartzberg and Anouska Seal, received first place in Robot Design. The Trash TournaMentors, consisting of fourth and fifth grade team members Lokahna Boreddi, Shivani Iyanar, Ridhik Mehta, Clifford Pfaff, Miles Renix and Luciana Sosa, received the top prize for Core Values.

Orlando Science Elementary School (OSES), sister school to SSCS, recently competed in Florida FLL Jr.’s Winter Invitational. The kindergarten through second grade and third grade teams who competed that day took home the “Out of the Box” Award, “Team Spirit” Award and two “STEM-tastic” Awards for using multiple STEM components in their design.

“We are proud of all the students who take part in our robotics programs and compete statewide,” said Dr. Yalcin Akin, Executive Director of Seminole Science Charter School and Orlando Science Schools. “Many of our students are competing in robotics for the first time and this success speaks to the dedication our staff and students have for applying STEM concepts.”

The winning teams will compete at the Florida FLL and Florida FLL Jr. qualifying tournaments in January to determine eligible teams for the regional tournament.
Robots Teams Honored

Seminole Science Charter School (SSCS) recently took home trophies from Florida FIRST LEGO League (Florida FLL) and Florida FIRST LEGO League Jr (Florida FLL Jr) robotics tournaments. Two of SSCS’s robotics teams - Macrobots and Task Team-Mentors - took home top honors in FLL’s Park Panther Rumble V pre-qualifying tournament at Kennedy Middle School in Rockledge.

Among the 19 teams competing at the tournament, two SSCS teams received first place in Robot Design and Core Values. The Macrobots team, including fourth and fifth-grade students Jackson Dunham, Farkh Nusheer, Sarah Vincent, Karthik Nagesh, Aastha Nair, Amber Nava, Brady Schwartzberg, and Andrea Soto received first place in Robot Design. The Task Team-Mentors, consisting of fourth and fifth-grade team members Lokeshwar Boradkar, Shvani Dhanani, Rishabh Malhotra, Clifford Hromek, Miles Feneu, and Luciana Soria, received first place in Core Values.

Orlando Science Elementary School (OSES) sister school to SSCS, recently competed in Florida FLL Jr’s Winter Invitational. The kindergarten through second grade and third grade teams who competed that day took home the “Out of the Box” award, “Team Spirit” award, and two “STEM Impact” awards for using multiple STEM components in their design.

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Photos by Adriana M. Grossman, from the website FIRSTorg.
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Local schools recently hosted the Google Expeditions Pioneer Program at their campus. Students from Orlando Science Elementary School are pictured using Expeditions, a virtual reality platform built for the classroom that allows teachers to take students on virtual field trips. Expeditions immerses students in experiences beyond the classroom. The “trips” are collections of virtual reality panoramas – 360° photo spheres, 3D images and video, ambient sounds – annotated with details, points of interest, and questions that make them easy to integrate into curricula already used in schools. Google is currently sending Expeditions Pioneer Program teams to schools around the world to demonstrate the new technology.

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Local Artists Recognized
Orlando Science School student, Charisma Tran, won a ride in the Florida Citrus Parade as Honorary Grand Marshall for her drawing of the football Classic at the Citrus Bowl.
Community Bulletin

Local students shine in Science Olympiad

Orlando Science Schools middle and high school students recently took home trophies from Science Olympiad’s Central Florida Regional Tournament. OSS – a public charter school in Orange County that focuses on STEM education – offers a Science Olympiad program for both middle and high school students to compete in teams against other schools in events related to earth science, biology, chemistry, physics and engineering. More than 7,400 teams across the country compete in these events annually. The OSS teams competed with more than 30 teams – resulting in first and second place honors for the middle school team and a third place honor for the high school team within their division. Individual medals included 17 gold, eight silver and seven bronze medals in events across all science disciplines.
So What Else is New?

Orlando Science Schools has once again defended their title to place first at the annual Central Florida Math Counts Chapter competition. They will now head to the State Math Counts competition this April to compete at the state level. More than 30 awards were earned by Orlando Science Schools at Science Olympiad's Central Florida Regional Tournament recently. These awards have qualified them to compete at the state level next month at the Florida Science Olympiad at the University of Central Florida. The OSS teams competed with more than 30 teams – resulting in first and second place honors for the middle school team and third place honor for the high school team within their division. Individual medals included 17 gold, eight silver and seven bronze medals in events across all science disciplines such as Bridge Building, Experimental Design, Meteorology and Wind Power.
ORLANDO SCIENCE SCHOOLS STUDENTS HONORED AT SCIENCE OLYMPIAD REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

ORLANDO — Orlando Science Schools (OSS) middle and high school students recently took home trophies from Science Olympiad’s Central Florida Regional Tournament. OSS — a public charter school in Orange County that focuses on STEM education — offers a Science Olympiad program for both middle and high school students to compete in teams against other schools in events related to earth science, biology, chemistry, physics and engineering. More than 7,400 teams across the country compete in these events annually.

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“Our students have done tremendously well in our Science Olympiad program the past few years and we couldn’t be more proud of their success,” said Dr. Yaelin Akins, Executive Director of Orlando Science Schools. “As a STEM-focused school, we are happy to provide an opportunity for our students to apply the concepts they are learning in the classroom.”

The winning teams will compete at the Florida Science Olympiad at the University of Central Florida in March. The OSS Science Olympiad middle school team has been the state champion for four of the past five years. They have represented the state of Florida in national competitions in Wisconsin, Ohio, Nebraska and Florida.
ORLANDO SCIENCE SCHOOLS PLACES FIRST AT CENTRAL FLORIDA MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION

ORLANDO - Orlando Science Schools (OSS) students defended their title and received first place out of 54 middle school teams across the region during the annual Central Florida MathCounts Chapter competition. Students from OSS - a public charter school in Orange County that focuses on STEM education - competed both individually and in a team, engaged in live, timed rounds of math problems at the competition. MathCounts hosts events in all 50 states and in schools worldwide, with more than 500 local chapters across the country competing in these events annually.

Individual participant Saarnjana Konda, Esha Ranade, Harshitha Uppada, Minh Le, and Siyona Mishra - qualified to compete in the State MathCounts competition hosted by the Florida Engineering Society this April in Orlando. After three challenging rounds, all individual OSS Mathematicians ranked in the top 20 out of 300 students at the competition, placing first, second, fourth, seventh, eighth, eleventh and nineteenth.

“MathCounts competitions have proven to be an impactful outlet for our students to apply the mathematical skills they’ve acquired in the classroom,” said Dr. Yalcin Akin, Executive Director of Orlando Science Schools. “Our STEM-focused curriculum and project-based learning have helped our students succeed tremendously at these competitions. We are delighted to see them go on to compete at the state level once again.”
Continued from page 17

from OSS – a public charter school in Orange County that focuses on STEM education – competed both individually and in a team, engaging in five timed rounds of math problems at the competition. MathCounts hosts events in all 50 states and in schools worldwide, with more than 500 local chapters across the country competing in these events annually. Individual participants Saradhak Bharguband and the OSS team comprised of Sanjana Konda, Esha Ranade, Harshitha Upadhy, Minh Le, and Slaya Mishra – qualified to compete in the State MathCounts competition hosted by the Florida Engineering Society this April in Orlando. After three challenging rounds, all individual OSS Mathletes ranked in the top 20 out of 300 students at the competition, placing first, second, fourth, seventh, eighth, 11th and 19th.
School Earns First Place in Math Competition

Students from Orlando Science Schools (OSS), a public charter school in Orange County that focuses on STEM education, took home first place in the annual Central Florida MathCounts Chapter competition. MathCounts hosts events in all 50 states and in schools all over the world, with more than 500 national chapters competing annually.

The OSS students competed both individually and as part of a team against 34 other area middle schools. They engaged in live, timed rounds of math problems. Individual participant, Saardhak Bhagubanda and the OSS team — comprised of Sanjana Konda, Esha Ranade, Hershitha Uppada, Minh Le and Siyona Mishra — qualified to compete in the State MathCounts competition hosted by the Florida Engineering Society. The event will take place this month in Orlando.

"MathCounts competitions have proven to be an impactful outlet for our students to apply the mathematic skills they've acquired in the classroom," Yalcin Akin, the executive director of OSS says. "Our STEM-focused curriculum and project-based learning have helped our students succeed tremendously at these competitions. We are delighted to see them go on to compete at the state level once again."
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Seminole Happenings
A look at events around Seminole County

Power Grid Firm donates to Seminole Science Charter School

Power Grid, a local engineering firm in Winter Springs, recently donated computers & office supplies to Seminole Science Charter School students. The firm brings a team of engineers to participate in hands-on activities with the students during their engineering club meeting.
Seminole Science Charter observes Earth Day

Seminole Science Charter School in Lake Mary celebrated Earth Day by talking to its students about reducing, recycling and reusing. The school collaborated on a mural, a recycled kite challenge and planted a living wall. Students also planted seeds in containers to take home in hopes of creating passion for our earth in the next generation.

Photos contributed
Orlando Science School plans downtown expansion via office bldg purchase

Highlighted in blue are four parcels on Technology Drive that Orlando Science Schools has in play for future expansion of its K-12 school in Downtown Orlando. The westernmost parcel is home to the current K-5 school, to the right is an office building set for purchase and renovation, and the two easternmost parcels are undeveloped, totaling 11 acres. (Orange County Property Appraiser)

By Bob Moser - Contact Reporter
GrowthSpotter

Orlando Science Schools, a local charter with three campuses, plans to acquire and convert an office building that neighbors its Downtown Orlando campus in order to double enrollment, and will seek civil engineer and architect bids in the coming months, its executive director told GrowthSpotter.

The focal property neighbors the K-5 school at West Orlando at 2611 Technology Dr., which lies just northeast of the W. Colonial Drive-N. John Young Parkway intersection. The school's 6-12 building lies a
few miles north on Lynx Lane.

The elementary school currently operates out of a 30,293-square-foot building. The school would acquire and thoroughly renovate the two-story, 28,659-square-foot building next door at 2601 Technology Dr., currently owned and occupied by law firm Bogin, Munns & Munns, P.A.

A spokesman with the law firm declined to comment on Friday regarding the potential sale.

With 484 students enrolled now and a waiting list more than double that, the expansion could add space for up to 450 more students, said Yalcin Akin, executive director.

The company has filed for a conditional use permit amendment with the City of Orlando to expand its existing K-12 charter school onto adjacent property, with plans to convert an existing office building for school use, build an outdoor play area and extend a driveway. The proposal will be heard June 21 by the Municipal Planning Board.

"With our growing waiting list and the parents who’ve asked us to grow, we believe this is a great opportunity at this time to expand," Akin told GrowthSpotter.

"The new building would offer classroom and administrative office space. The city CUP approval process should conclude some time in July, and we hope to start renovations in December or early January," he continued. "No estimates have been provided yet for cost of the work. We should make choices in the coming six months for (civil engineer and architect)."

Acquiring that office parcel would open up an adjacent 11.4 acres of undeveloped land directly east the school also owns, allowing for future expansion and a second entrance via N. Texas Avenue.

Orlando Science Schools offer a STEM-focused curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). The school opened its first Seminole County branch last August in Lake Mary, and is subleasing a property in Kissimmee to open its fourth campus this coming August.

Charter schools are publicly funded and privately managed, but answer to their local school boards. Students from throughout a given county can apply to attend.

Have a tip about Central Florida development? Contact me at news@growthspotter.com, (407) 420-5685 or @FrancisBarber. Follow GrowthSpotter on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

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STEM-based school expected in August

Posted on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 9:50 am

By Jennifer DiDomenico
For the News-Gazette

Osceola Science Charter School (OSCS) is expected to open this August for the 2016-17 school year. OSCS is a STEM-focused (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), tuition-free charter school and part of the Orlando Science Schools (OSS) model. The opening of the new school is based on the success of its predecessors—Orlando Science School and Seminole Science Charter School.

“Expanding into Osceola County is the result of parent demand—as well as a testament to the success of our campuses in Orange and Seminole counties,” said Yalcin Akin, executive director of OSS. “We look forward to sharing our proven, project-based approach to STEM education and continuing to develop the scientists, mathematicians and leaders of tomorrow through our curriculum.”

OSCS will feature small classes, advanced lab courses and high-tech tools such as smart whiteboards and 3D printers. After school activities will include Robotics Club, Science Olympiad, math league, art club and sports.

“The after-school curriculums will focus on hands-on learning to give students the opportunity to practice the STEM education outside of the classroom,” said Akin.

The new school will serve grades kindergarten to third in its first year, and will grow to a kindergarten-fifth grade school in the future. It will be located at Avant Garde Academy’s new facility at 2880 N. Orange Blossom Trail in Kissimmee.

“Avant Garde Academy is thrilled for the opportunity to collaborate with Osceola Science Charter School and offer this proven method of STEM-focused coursework to students and families in Osceola County,” said Frank Bolaños of Avant Garde Academy.
Fox 35 (broadcast) – aired a story. May 21.
WFTV (broadcast) – aired a story. May 21 and 22. (Ran three times)
News 13 (broadcast) – aired a story. May 22 and 23. (Ran 19 times)
OSES places in mathematics competition

Orlando Science Elementary School found success in the Orange County Council of Teachers of Mathematics annual mathematics competition on April 8. This year, 39 teams from 14 participating schools competed in the OCCTM math tournament and multiple OSES students placed. The third grade team took first place, the fourth grade team took first place and the fifth grade team took second place. A handful of OSES children received the highest individual score for their respective grades, including: Arnaw Mujumdar, third grade; Michelle Li and Meghana Konda, fourth grade; and Harvik Kesineni, fifth grade. In addition to sharing the highest individual score for fourth grade, Michelle and Meghana achieved the highest score for all participants across all three grade levels. OSES also won ribbons for individual team events such as problem solving, team relay and the estimation activity.
Orlando Science Elementary School (OSEs) found success in the Orange County Council of Teachers of Mathematics (OCCTM) annual mathematics competition in April.

This year, 39 teams from 14 participating schools competed in the OCCTM math tournament and multiple OSES students placed.

- 3rd Grade Team – first place
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A handful of OSES children received the highest individual score for their respective grades, including:

- Arnav Mujumdar, third grade
- Michelle Li and Meghana Konda, fourth grade
- Harvik Kesineni, fifth grade

In addition to sharing the highest individual score for fourth grade, Michelle and Meghana achieved the highest score for all participants across all three grade levels. OSES also won ribbons for individual team events such as problem solving, team relay, and the estimation activity.

“We are proud of the success our students had in this annual mathematics competition,” said Dr. Yalcin Akin, Orlando Science Schools' executive director. “Our STEM-based curriculum allows our students to learn and grow in unique ways.”
Osceola Science Charter School to Open for 2016-2017 School Year at Avant Garde Academy School

Successful STEM-Focused, Tuition-Free Charter School Coming to Kissimmee

Osceola Science Charter School (OSCS), a STEM-focused, tuition-free charter school — and part of the proven Orlando Science Schools (OSS) model — will open this August for the 2016-2017 school year. OSCS will serve K-3 students in its first year and will grow to serve K-5 in upcoming years. The 25,000 square foot campus will be co-located at Avant Garde Academy’s (AGA) new, state of the art facility at 2880 N. Orange Blossom Trail in Kissimmee.

“Expanding into Osceola County is the result of parent demand — as well as a testament to the success of our campuses in Orange and Seminole counties,” said Dr. Yalcin Akin, executive director of OSS. “We look forward to sharing our proven, project-based approach to STEM education and continuing to develop the scientists, mathematicians and leaders of tomorrow through our curriculum.”

OSCS will feature small classes, advanced lab courses and high-tech tools like “smart” whiteboards, 3D printers, soon to be added tablets for student use, as well as social opportunities that help create camaraderie among students, parents and staff. After-school activities include Robotics Club, Science Olympiad, math league, art club and sports.

“Avant Garde Academy is thrilled for the opportunity to collaborate with Osceola Science Charter School and offer this proven method of STEM-focused coursework to students and families in Osceola County,” said Frank Bolaris with Avant Garde Academy.

The opening of OSCS is based on the success of its predecessors, Orlando Science Schools — rated an “A+” charter school six years in a row since 2010 — and Seminole Science Charter School, which opened in 2013.

About Orlando Science Schools

Orlando Science Schools, a tuition-free public charter school focused on STEM education, is approved by the Orange County School Board as an elementary, middle and high school. The mission of the school is to offer students in Orange County a high-quality education with research-based curriculum, aligned with the Common Core / Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, while enabling students to reach their maximum potential in all subject areas with special emphasis on mathematics, science and reading. Orlando Science Schools currently serves grades K-12. For more information, visit www.orlandoscience.org.