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Friends Select School holds 22nd Math and Science Symposium



Maya Bogle, Lydia Thompson, and Sydney Leffler with their machine, Get Money, which puts coins in a piggy bank. Photo: Lynda Greenwade

Weekly Press
• Wed, Apr 27, 2011

By Haywood Brewster
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, April 20th, Friends Select School held their 22nd annual middle- and upper school Math and Science Symposium. The night consisted of student presentations, Rube Goldberg and Physics Bridge competition, and a keynote presentation by Dr. Charles L. Epstein, Thomas A. Scott Professor of Mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania.

One highlight of the evening was the eighth grade Rube Goldberg competition, which features student-built complex machines performing simple tasks. Each of the six teams gave a short presentation about their machine before demonstrating its operation. The following are the six machines that were demonstrated: Get Money, Whoopi Goldberg, In the Blink of a Blender, Man's Best Friend, Dunkin' Oreos and Waterworks.

This year's judges evaluated the machines based on six criteria: Goal of machine is clear, Machine has multiple steps, Creativity of idea, Creative use of materials, Machine works and Presentation. Below are the results:

First Place: Man's Best Friend and Whoopi Goldberg

Second Place: In the Blink of a Blender

Third Place: Get Money

Judges Prize for most useful for a midnight snack: Dunkin' Oreos

Judges Prize for most attentive to animal needs: Waterworks

The Math and Science Symposium is an event where seventh and eighth graders present mathematics and science independent research projects to parents and classmates. The seventh grade may choose bio-diversity or environmental stewardship. The eighth grade physics class competes in the Rube Goldberg machine competition. After completing independent research projects in mathematics or science, upper school students also present their work to parents and peers.

Friends Select School is a coed, college preparatory, Quaker day school serving 540 students in grades pre-k through 12. The school, which traces its roots to 1889, is located on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, at the center of Philadelphia's business, cultural and government districts.

Poll: N.J. residents losing good feeling about state
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