

Hindley Students Explore Circuitry, Puppet Making at School Library Event

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From paper circuits and robots to Keva planks and sock puppet creations, the Hindley Elementary School Maker Fair provided a wide array of exploration and experimentation for students last week.

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The Maker Fair — in its third year at Hindley — featured 20 Innovation Stations set up around the library.

Run by parent and student volunteers, the event allowed students to choose and discover new areas of interest relative to science, technology, engineering, art, and math, also known as STEAM, said Library Media Specialist Jackie Heyde, who coordinated the event.

Students in Grades 3 to 5 rotated through stations and tested their knowledge of basic engineering and coding skills along with many creative pursuits.

At the Bee Bots station, for example, students had to answer a geography question and program the robot to land on a picture on a grid. Stations also allowed students to collaborate and build structures using household items and recyclables.

“Students were able to choose the type of activity they wanted to engage in,” said Heyde. “The buzz in the room was electric.”

Among the visitors to the Hindley event were members of the District Re-imagining Libraries Committee, an 18-member group studying innovations to library spaces across the district.

One aspect under review is the creating of Maker Spaces inside all Darien [school] libraries. Members who attended were impressed at the connection to the curriculum and the pride older students showed in running stations.

Editor's note: Marc Marin, director of instructional technology, leads the committee and edits this newsletter.

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