

Local Students Explore Innovation At Camp Invention

A total of 37 area students spent the week discovering, creating and problem-solving during Camp Invention, hosted at Midland Elementary School.

The nationally recognized STEM enrichment program welcomed 31 students in kindergarten through sixth grade, four middle school students and two high school students for a week filled with hands-on learning and creative challenges. Camp Invention is a program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame designed to inspire curiosity, innovation and confidence through science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activities.

The camp was directed by Meredith Hattan, with instruction provided by Jenni Williams and Wylee Bickerman. Throughout the week, students worked together to solve problems, design inventions and participate in engaging STEM experiences that encouraged teamwork, creativity

and critical thinking.

This year's Camp Invention program, titled Spark, challenged students to think like inventors through four unique modules. Campers explored entrepreneurship by designing innovative products and creating miniature billboard boats, investigated mysteries using forensic science techniques and robotic capybaras, built and launched space-themed projects, and learned about protecting inventions through intellectual property and cryptography activities.

Camp Invention has been helping young innovators build confidence and problem-solving skills for more than 35 years through authentic, hands-on STEM learning experiences. The program is presented in partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Students at Midland Elementary spent the week collaborating

with peers, developing creative solutions and discovering new ways to think about science, engineering and invention. The experience provided opportunities for learners of all ages to explore their interests, take on new challenges and bring their ideas to life.

Camp organizers expressed appreciation to the students and families who participated and helped make this year's program a success. The week concluded with campers taking home their projects, new friendships and a greater enthusiasm for innovation and STEM learning.

Following a successful second year of Camp Invention at Midland Elementary School, plans are already underway for next summer's program. Camp Invention will return to Midland Elementary June 7-11, 2027, providing another opportunity for local students to explore STEM concepts through hands-on activities, creativity and innovation.



Those participating are pictured above. In the back from left to right: Carson Mangold, Reid Streitmatter, Tommy Pinkham, Blake Pufahl, Theo Haskins, Waylon Crisp, Kitner Kiete, Blake Rowe, Landon Steele, Drew Rowe, Kendryck Hattan, Chase Brown, Hadley Button, Lillith Biba, Kayla Steitmat-

ter and Veronica Murphy. Front row: Maebyn Mangold, Chandler Haskins, Will Rowe, Pryor Stork, Brant Streitmatter, Riley Zimmerman, Evy Kereta, Ali Wigand, Saige Steele, Cheyann Head, Myla Wigand, Caliah Merriken, Parker Zimmerman, Charlee Pufahl, and Colman Schumacher.



Theo Haskins



Pictured above are camp instructors Jenni Williams and Wylee Bickerman and camp director Meredith Hattan



Blake Rowe



Kendryck Hattan and Blake Rowe



Leo Pontano

Professional Painting

INTERIOR • EXTERIOR

Serving Henry and Surrounding Areas

847-682-5554

"Doing it Right...One Job At A Time"

INSURED Email: leopontano@yahoo.com

Serving Henry and the Surrounding Area

June Events

Lacon Area Community Center

June 17-Wed.	11:00 am 6:00 pm	Lutheran Church Service Card Players (call for more info.)
June 19-Fri.	2:00 pm	Youth Art Class Juneteenth
June 21-Sun.		Father's Day
June 24-Wed.	11:00 am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Lutheran Church Service Sparland Baptist Bible Study Card Players (call for more info.)

For more information about any of these programs, other activities and building rental use please contact us: (309)246-4050 Laconcommunitycenter@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.



No One Fights Alone!

FIRST RESPONDER

La Prairie United Presbyterian Church

Puppeteers Present

Vacation Bible School 2026

June 29th - July 2nd	Puppet Show Program
Monday - Thursday	Sunday July 5th
6pm - 8pm	9:30 am
Puppet show Music Crafts Snacks and more	Join us afterwards for a Potluck & Ice Cream Social

Pre Registration Preferred

Call/text 815-878-9906

Pre K - 6th grade

Food Drive Donations appreciated M-Th and/or Sunday Morning



- BOOKLETS
- MAGAZINES
- NEWSPAPERS
- TABLOIDS

One stop source for printing, binding, stitching and mailing

P&P PRESS

6513 N. Galena Road
Peoria IL 61614
309-691-8511
www.pppress.com

Visit our P&P Press Design Studio at www.peoriadigitalprinting.com

Scan here to create an order, upload your own design, or create a custom design from over 10,000 templates

Banners • Brochures • Business Cards • Envelopes • Flyers • Invitations
Letterhead • Notebooks • Notepads • Note Cards • Photo Cards
Postcards • Posters • Thank You Cards