

The SMILE Program  
University of Rhode Island  
90 Lower College Road, Roosevelt Rm 1  
Kingston RI 02881

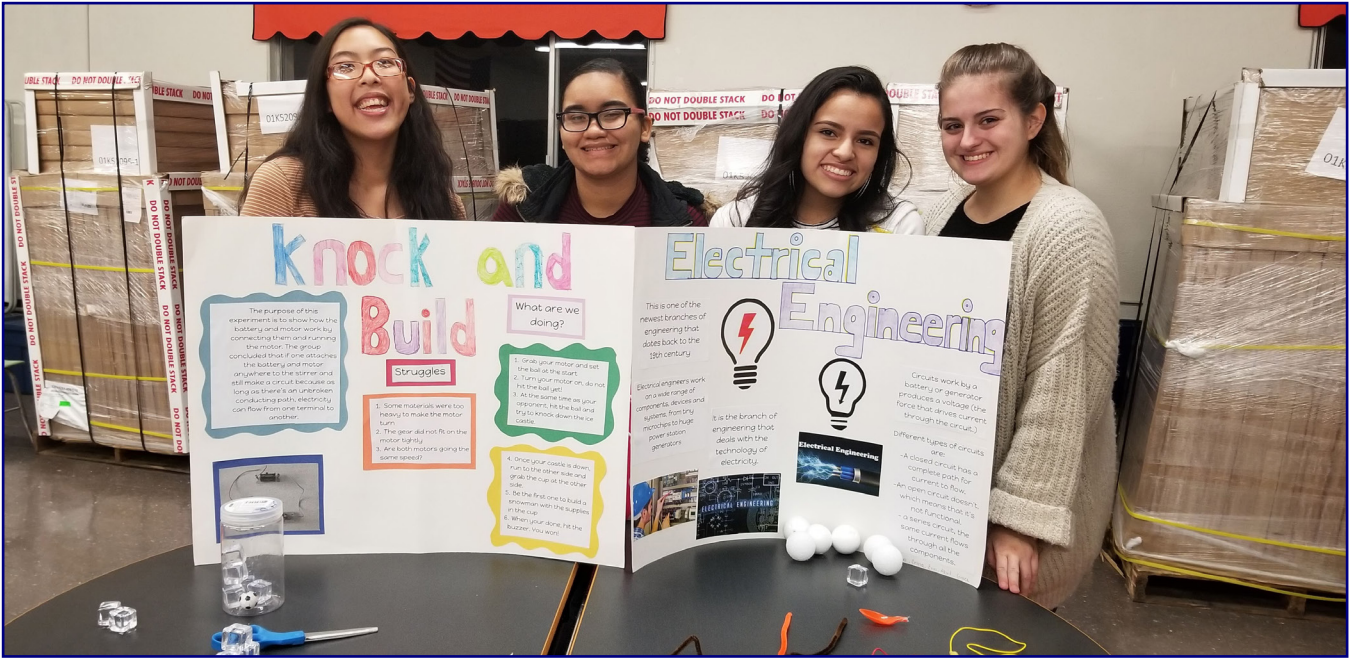
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Newsletter  
volume 25 No.1, January 2019

25\* Years of service

# SMILE, It's Family Science Night!



West Warwick SMILE students present engineering activities to families, friends, and their school communities.

In November and December, SMILE clubs from across the state participated in district wide Family Science Nights. SMILE students look forward to this community event that brings together students and their families, friends, teachers, school administrators, and community leaders for an evening of interactive science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities. Family Science Night promotes community and education. This special evening includes a potluck dinner followed by science and math activities taught by SMILE students. Activities are designed for the whole family to participate in, learn from, and enjoy.

Participants in Family Science Night are always impressed and proud of the accomplishment of their SMILE students. Many parents have expressed to SMILE staff their delight and surprise at seeing their child as a competent teacher as parents and siblings rotate through a series of stations. It is an evening where families are learners and begin to bond into a SMILE community. Students have the opportunity to present activities five or more times to their family and community members, impressing everyone with their enthusiasm for science and math and teaching, and building authentic confidence and self-esteem.

Continued on page 2...

## Donate

The SMILE Program relies on the generous support of our donors. Invest in the future of RI students by supporting SMILE.

Please make checks payable to  
"The SMILE Program"

Mail to:  
The SMILE Program  
90 Lower College Rd, Roosevelt Rm 1  
Kingston, RI 02881

\*The SMILE Program is a 501(c)3  
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## Visit Us Online

[www.uri.edu/smile](http://www.uri.edu/smile)

## Join Us on Facebook



## Calendar

Weekly SMILE Club Meetings  
Scientific and Career Exploration Field Trips

Family Science Nights  
November-December 2018

Special Annual Events  
High School  
Engineering Challenge Weekend  
April 26-27, 2019  
URI Kingston Campus

Middle School  
Engineering Challenge Weekend  
March 29-30, 2019  
URI Kingston Campus

Elementary School  
5th Grade Outdoor Science Adventure  
April 5-7, 2019  
URI Alton Jones Campus  
4th Grade Ecology Event  
April 11, 2019  
URI Kingston Campus

## Teachers' Professional Development Workshops

August 22-23, 2018	Dec 3, 2018	May 21, 2019
University of Rhode Island	University of Rhode Island	University of Rhode Island
Math and Science Curriculum Planning for the year	Math and Science Curriculum Special Events Planning	Program Evaluations



Printing donated by Schneider Electric



*This year’s Family Science Night focus was on engineering and how this STEM field inflences the world around us!*

“This program has been a great confidence builder!”  
`Westerly SMILE Parent

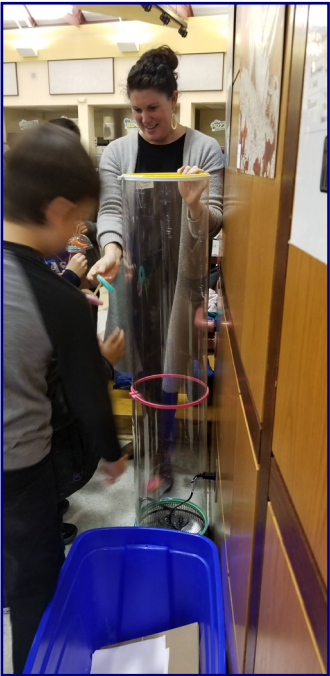


“My daughter loves SMILE. Every Tuesday she has something new and exciting to tell me. Thank you for all you do with the children in West Warwick.” `West Warwick SMILE Parent



“All three of my children participate in SMILE. They love it and learn so much every week, Thank you!”  
`South Kingstown SMILE Parent

“The children are empowered to explain and take charge of their own scientific experiences.”  
`Newport SMILE Parent



We would like to thank the following list of funders that have allowed SMILE to grow and continue to provide high quality after-school STEM programming to Rhode Island students:

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Amgen Foundation  | Rhode Island Foundation           |
| Amgen Biotech Experience                                  | Schneider Electric                |
| Amica   | Steere Engineering                |
| Anonymous Donors  | Toray Plastics, America, Inc.     |
| Arnold Lumber   | University of Rhode Island        |
| The Champlin Foundations                                  | URI Transportation Center         |
| Connecting For Children and Families                      | van Beuren Charitable Foundation  |
| Constellation, an Exelon company                          | Verizon Foundation                |
| Dominion  | YMCA of Greater Providence        |
| Graphic Expressions                                       | Central Falls School Department   |
| Holiday Inn South Kingstown                               | Newport School Department         |
| Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, Bank of America, N.A Trustee | South Kingstown School Department |
| Nordson Corporation Foundation                            | Walmart Foundation                |
| NOAA B-Wet Program  | Westerly School Department        |
| Pawtucket COZ-21 <sup>st</sup> Century                    | West Warwick School Department    |
| Pfizer  | Woonsocket School Department      |
| Ramsey McCluskey Family Foundation                        |                                   |

We would also like to thank our Individual Supporters, who are vital in helping The SMILE Program to continue its mission

- CENTRAL FALLS**  
Ella Risk Elementary School  
Sheryl Wilson  
Tim Valenta
- Calcutt 5th grade  
Karen Cardoza  
Peggy Boyer
- Calcutt Middle School  
Karen Cardoza  
Molly MacDonald
- Central Falls High School  
Laura Stanish  
Kelly Valentine
- NEWPORT**  
Claiborne Pell Elementary  
Aaron Sherman  
Sybil Grayko
- Thompson Middle School  
Candace Lewia  
Elizabeth Gibbs
- Rogers High School  
June McGreavy
- SOUTH KINGSTOWN**  
Peacedale Elementary  
Eileen Daly  
Christine Pierce
- Curtis Corner Middle School  
Brenda Dillmann  
Valerie Light
- S.Kingstown High School  
Christina Antaya-Dube  
Amanda Varone
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Springbok Elementary School  
Lisa Kenyon  
Melisa Ferando
- Westerly Middle School  
Carolyn Michaud  
Robert Brennan
- Westerly High School  
Sharon Facarro  
Susan Wood
- WEST WARWICK**  
Horgan Elementary School  
Maria DePalma  
Amy Horne
- Deering Middle School  
Eugene Gallo  
Christopher Baccei
- West Warwick High School  
Eugene Gallo  
Christopher Baccei
- WOONSOCKET**  
Harris Elementary School  
Melanie Clark-Medyesy  
Katherine Krause
- Coleman Elementary School  
Jennifer Paolozzi  
Anissa Hoard
- Citizens Elementary School  
James Bucci  
Melanie Clark-Medsey
- Woonsocket Middle School (2 clubs)  
Jenn Hardy  
Deana McCarthy  
Marie Gentile  
Rania Aghia
- Woonsocket High School  
Julia Grassini  
Ethel Locke

The SMILE Program		
<b>SMILE STAFF</b> Carol Englander Director  Claudia Hoddersen Curriculum Specialist  Clair Stengall-Murphy Curriculum Specialist  JoAnn Basel Curriculum Specialist  Kristy Armstrong Bookkeeper  Kaitlyn Czup Development Coordinator	<b>URI RESOURCE FACULTY</b> Kathy Collins, Vice President for Student Affairs  <b>ENGINEERING</b> Faye Boudreaux-Bartels Christopher Hunter Mercedes Rivero-Hudec Manbir Sodhi Jose Amador CELS-NRS  <b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b>  Fred Frostic, President John Peterson, Vice President Ruth Jarrett, Secretary Malcolm Spaulding, Board Member Glenda Kirby, Board Member Steve White, Board Member Augusto Gomes, Board Member Fran Alexacos, Board Member Cathy Valentino, Board Member	<b>COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENT &amp; LIFE SCIENCES</b>  Larry Englander CELS, Plant Sciences Evan Preisser CELS-BIO  <b>MATHEMATICS</b> Orlando Merino  <i>The Science and Math Investigative Learning Experiences (SMILE) Program is an enrichment program for education-ally disadvantaged students in grades 4-12 in seven districts in Rhode Island. SMILE’s goal is to provide group activities for these students in science, technology, engineering and math. Generous gifts by participating donors make this program possible. The SMILE newsletter is published three times a year. We encourage your comments and ideas. Please share this newsletter with others who might be interested in SMILE.</i>





## SMILE High School Seniors

### College Check-list

Keep your grades up  
Take SAT Exam  
Apply to College

Remember it is always good to consider two “safety schools,” two “good matches,” and at least one “reach” college.

As soon as possible start working on your college applications, check the deadlines.

As you work on your application essays, have your parents, teachers, or counselors review them.

Teachers’ recommendation letters must be requested at least one month before the deadline.

During Challenge Weekend you will have the opportunity to talk to SMILE graduates about their college experience.

### Look for Scholarships

Check your guidance school’s counselor office for local and national scholarships. Check out the following web sites [www.RIScholarships.com](http://www.RIScholarships.com); [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

### Financial Aid

Students and families should apply for financial aid. Contact the financial aid office at the colleges in which you are interested to find out about forms and deadlines.

Fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to apply for financial aid soon after January 1, 2019 and Feb 15, 2019 to ensure it is received before the college deadlines. You can apply online at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov).

Learn about college loan options. Borrowing money for college can be a smart choice, especially if you get a low-interest federal loan.

### Need help with your college application?

1. [www.ed.gov/prog\\_info/SFA/FAFSA](http://www.ed.gov/prog_info/SFA/FAFSA)  
2. Call the SMILE office at (401) 874-2036 or send us an email at [smileprogramuri@gmail.com](mailto:smileprogramuri@gmail.com). Visit College Planning Center of Rhode Island. Located in the Warwick Mall. Monday to Saturdays Noon to 7.00 PM and Sundays Noon to 3.00 PM. Phone: (401) 736-1182. Web: [www.collegeplanningcenter.org](http://www.collegeplanningcenter.org)

They offer help with the college admission process, how to apply for financial aid, free scholarship searches, assistance in completing the admissions and financial aid applications, and more.



Activities presented at this year’s Family Science Night included: constructing Air racers, building circuits to make robots and light-up cards, ‘lunar landing’, ‘ship the chip’ challenge to design a package to go through USPS, and ‘get it write’ a challenge to design a functioning writing instrument).

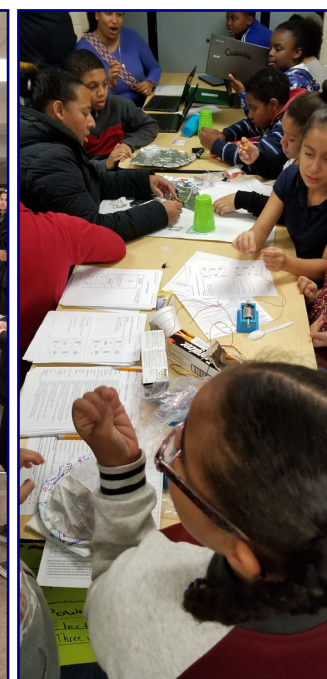


“It is an awesome program. It builds self-esteem and leadership.”

Woonsocket SMILE Parent

“Everything is excellent and a great experience. My daughter loves this program.”

Central Falls SMILE Parent



Family Science Night is a fun and engaging STEM experience where SMILE students showcase their knowledge.

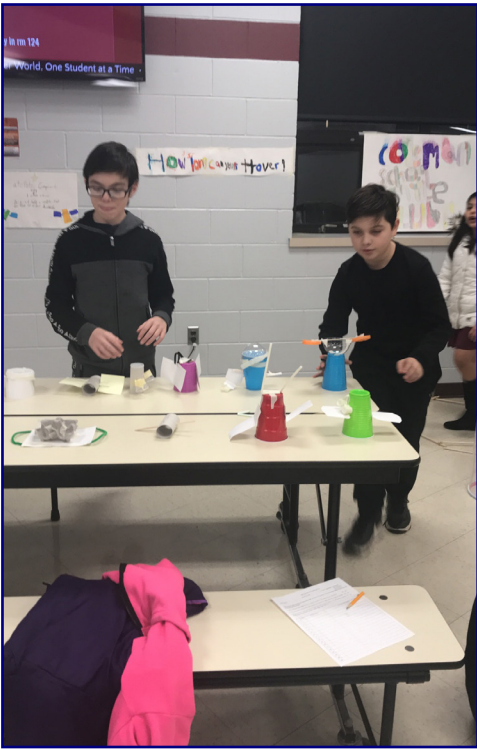




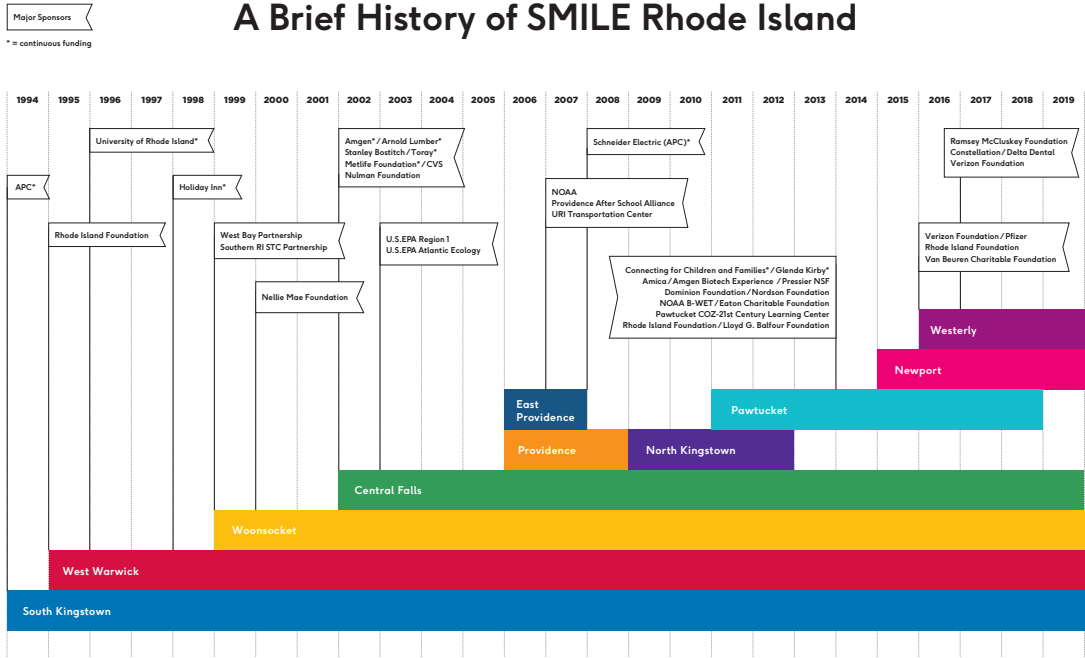
Coleman Elementary, Woonsocket  
Anissa Hoard, Jennifer Paolozzi  
By Coleman SMILE Club

What I love about SMILE...

- “Everything! It’s fun and you learn different things.”  
-Danya, grade 5
- “Building and engineering things.”  
-Alexis, grade 4
- “I like everything. I think it’s all really fun!”  
-Riley, grade 5
- “Creating, activities, learning fun and interesting things, and going on field trips!”  
-Danielle, grade 5
- “Everything! I love Kahoot!”  
-Branson, grade 4
- “You learn a lot of stuff about animals and other things.”  
-Oume, grade 5
- “I love doing things I don’t get to do during the school day.”  
-Gabriela, grade 5
- “Learning about engineering!”  
-Christian, grade 4
- “I really want to be an engineer when I grow up, and SMILE is helping me become what I want to be.”  
-Ashley P., grade 5
- “It’s fun. It helps you learn a lot of things and go to college.”  
-Kaylee, grade 5
- “FIELD TRIPS!!!”  
-Coleman SMILE club



SMILE’s 25th Anniversary Celebration  
A Brief History of SMILE Rhode Island



The SMILE Program celebrated its 25th anniversary on October 16, 2018 in the Galanti Lounge of the URI Library. It was a wonderful event that recognized the accomplishments of SMILE in Rhode Island and the invaluable contributions of the URI community, faculty and students, and the RI and New England sponsors of SMILE. Dr. David Dooley, URI President, spoke about the contributions of SMILE to URI and higher education. Congressman Jim Langevin, who has been a mentor at the SMILE Middle School Engineering Challenge spoke about the importance of STEM education and the positive impact of SMILE on the high school graduation rate and college attendance rate. Congressman Langevin presented SMILE director, Carol Englander, with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to the SMILE Program in Celebration of 25 Years of Exemplary Educational Involvement. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse sent a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, and Governor Gina Raimondo sent a Certificate of Special Recognition “In Recognition of 25 years of Success in providing after-school science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) enrichment and career and college exploration for Rhode Island Students”. SMILE statistics were presented by Gray Boden, URI Office of Institutional Research. Over the years, 322 SMILE students have attended URI and currently there are 98 SMILE alumni as both undergraduate and graduate students at URI. A time line of SMILE expansion in Rhode Island was designed by SMILE alumnus, Njoki Gitahi, a communication designer in the New York office of the design and innovation firm IDEO. The time line was displayed along with photos, engineering challenge projects, and SMILE clothing depicting the various challenges.

Governor Raimondo sent long term Sponsors of the SMILE Program Citation of Special Recognition to Schneider Electric (formerly APC), Amgen, Toray Plastics, America, Arnold Lumber, Gilbane Building Company, Verizon, Pfizer, Holiday Inn South Kingstown, MetLife, the Ramsey McCluskey Family Foundation, The SMILE Program, and the University of Rhode Island.

The SMILE Board of Directors, URI faculty, sponsors, Congressman Langevin, and SMILE staff enjoyed the presentations and refreshments that followed. We are thrilled of the accomplishments of SMILE students and look forward to the years ahead.





August 2018 Teacher’s Workshop

The SMILE Program’s Professional Development Summer Workshop for teachers took place on August 22nd and 23rd 2018 at the University of Rhode Island. At the August workshop, teachers were trained and provided materials for the Engineering curriculum theme. SMILE’s Kelly Gallo, Claire Steggall-Murphy and Jo Ann Basel worked with teachers through a series of fun hands-on science and math activities that covered a wide variety of engineering related topics. Here teachers built models of electrical circuits, designed and tested packaging for a potato chip, made structures from wooden craft sticks and clothes pins, used large dowels and rubber bands to learn about stability and geometric shapes, kick sticks, among other activities. Teachers again received IPADS for their clubs thanks to a grant from the Champlin Foundation. Teachers left the workshop with new knowledge, exciting curriculum and a huge box of science supplies for their clubs Fall activities.

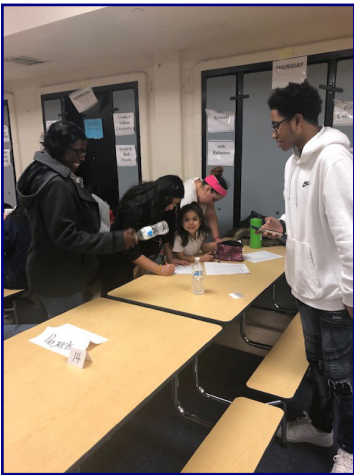


December 2018 Teacher’s Workshop

The SMILE Program’s Professional Development Winter Workshop for teachers took place on December 8th 2017 at the University of Rhode Island. SMILE’s Claudia Hodderson and Gina Haberlin, Claire Steggall-Murphy and Jo Ann Basel worked with their level teachers on hands-on science activities.. Elementary teachers received materials and activities on habitats and environmental factors. Middle school teachers prepared for the Engineering Challenge by going over activities with materials that dealt with wind energy, wind measurements, and generating electricity from wind energy. High school teachers were engaged in pre-activities that involved buoyancy, electronics, underwater vehicles, DNA and bioinformatics, the theme for their Engineering Challenge. Science discourse and reflection, both verbal and writing was emphasized to promte deeper learning and not just activity for activity sake. All teachers left the workshop with materials that permitted them to engage in inquiry based activities with their students.

Central Falls High School

Laura Stanish, Kerri Valentine  
By Central Falls SMILE Club



Central Falls High School sudent's' are excited about SMILE. They come to come meetings with a tenacity and exuberance for STEM.

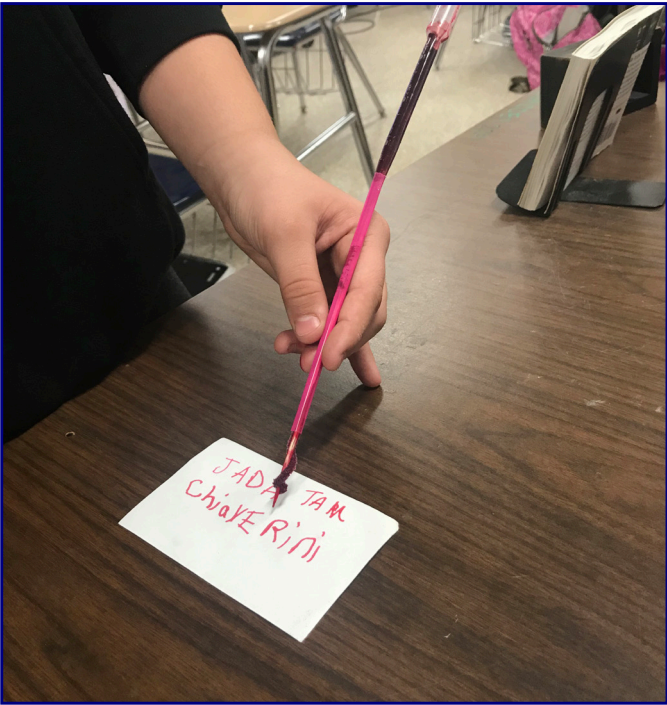
This fall we held our Family Science Night. This evening pot-luck provided Central Falls High School students the opportunity to interact with families from the community. From The Toxic Popcorn Challenge to the look of delight when kids were asked to experiment with what volume of water make for the highest number of bottle flips, smiles were abound in SMILE. The community and children attending loved it.

As we embark on the next unit of activities, students are excited to build an underwater ROV during the challenge weekend this coming spring.



Deering Middle School, West Warwick

Chris Baccei, Eugene Gallo  
By Juila Hernandez



Designing and testing ‘pens.’

During this year of SMILE, we have worked on so many different things! At the beginning of the year, we learned to use our teamwork skills by doing an activity that needed all four of us to participate. The plan was to be the first group to stack cups in the right order by using some strings. We all had fun. We also learned how to engineer packaging material to ship a chip in the U.S. Postal System. We had to pay attention to how much it cost and how it affected our environment. We worked with circuits and switches to make them work and to light up cards we made. Lastly, we worked on making pens using different materials like feathers and pipe cleaners. We can’t wait to do more! We also had a blast sharing what we learned, at family science night. At family science night, we were able to try different types of food and we got a taste of what other SMILE students were working on. Everyone is ready to learn more about science and math! We are also very excited about our challenge weekend, where we get to look around the URI campus as well as socialize with other SMILE clubs! Ready to see you there!



Rogers High School, Newport

June McGreavy  
By June McGreavy

This past November we held our annual Family Science Night. Each year we participate we gather more evidence showing the excitement science and engineering activities bring to young children as well as adults.

This year we are focusing on the Engineering Design Process. Determining needs, criteria, process, design, testing and any necessary modifications or revisions. For our presentations at Family Science Night, we chose:

- (1)Toxic Popcorn which is a simulation of a potential toxic spill and what needs to be done to save the world;
- (2)Flip It which is determining the best techniques to accomplish flipping bottles at various water levels to land up-right; and
- (3)Circuits which is learning how to manipulate the flow of electricity by a design that shows the importance of open and closed circuits.

This evening is always a big success with all the families that attend. This year was no different.

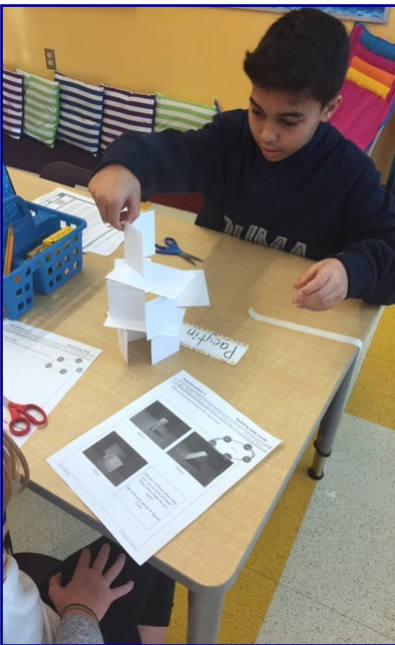


Claiborne Pell Elementary, Newport

Sybil Grayko, Aaron Sherman  
By Aaron Sherman



Mrs. Grayko and I have such a blast getting to know all of our future engineers! Every Wednesday we begin by highlighting a career in engineering, sharing story, insights, and goals. Then it's challenge time! So far we have built tall structures, structures perched perilously atop a cube, circuits, satellites that soar off the ground, robots with automatic shut offs, and much more. After a bit we take time to highlight in each group our great successes and challenges. A bit more work time then leads us to a circle up and reflection of our work. We are excited to finish our engineering challenges and work to find a schoolwide project that gives back and celebrates hard work and intelligence!



Westerly Middle School

Robert Brennan, Carolyn Michaud  
By Westerly Middle School SMILE Club

The Westerly Middle School SMILE Club is fortunate this year to have nine prior elementary members graduate to our program. Additionally, we have seven first time members joining to expand our club to 23 students. Our experienced WMS SMILE members have taken a leadership role in establishing the spirit of the club and the Family Science Night activities. They look forward to the upcoming URI Engineering Weekend and have enjoyed the Ship the Chip and Air Skimmer challenges the most so far. In their own words, students described the program as ...

- Helping students learn teamwork, problem solving, and real life situations
- Taking part in advanced projects that test skills, while still being fun and enjoyable
- Full of interesting projects and relaxing time with friends
- A lot of engineering and thinking, but worth it because you have a lot of fun
- A fun way to keep your mind turning and to make new friends
- What I look forward to all week long



Ella Risk Elementary, Central Falls

Sheryl Wilson, Tlmothy Valenta  
By Ella Risk SMILE Teachers

SMILE is the best after school program in the world! SMILE always makes us SMILE. It is a wonderful investigative learning experience. We would recommend it to anyone. Science helps us learn about science by doing experiments like Satellites! One of our engineers built a satellite that flew for sixty seconds! Isn't that amazing? It was fun to try to design them so they would fly for a long time. Another one of our favorite activities was Safe-Stopping Robots because it was a great engineering challenge. When we completed the circuit it was like magic! The Kahoot game taught us that there are all kinds of engineers. We loved showing off what we learned at Family Science Night. We used science, technology education, and math to solve problems together. When we make these experiments we learn more and become fluent in Science. It is very special because we get to work with our friends. SMILE is important because it will help us succeed in college. We learned how to design and redesign. After all, it isn't science if you don't try three times. We learned not to give up when we fail. All kids should have an after-school program like SMILE!

