New Tech students show off their achievements at CNT Expo | News | The Press and Standard

Posted: Friday, March 6, 2015 5:00 am | Updated: 5:05 am, Fri Mar 6, 2015.

0 comments

From bungee-jumping Barbies to the Periodic Table of Elements, students put on a show for those attending Cougar New Tech Entrepreneurial Academy’s “CNT Expo” Feb. 26.

The event offered the public a glimpse of the innovative programs offered at the academy.

Parent Shatora Williams said, “I really enjoyed everything last night — from starting on time, the speakers, the performances, smiles, information given and received, the positive energy … Teachers who believe in their students, and are willing to go above and beyond for their students and are excited about their careers … It’s not just a job, it’s a technique used to help retain the lessons taught in class and for college and the workforce, etc. I just want to tell students, teachers, all staff (including environmental services helping to assist me) thank you! CCHS is doing big things and I’m so proud of my son and all these students for giving CNT a chance. As you remember, my son De Angelo was not sure about it even after entering CNT, but his grades, knowledge, skills, and confidence speak loudly. Thank you so much! Keep up the good work.”

Parents had a chance to tour classrooms filled with exhibits by students on everything from calculating the number of rubber bands necessary for a bungee-jumping Barbie to the pollution potential and solutions for S.C. beaches and rivers.

In one classroom, Jonathan Monroe, Rayonna Perry, Germaine Clayton, Zack Darrow, Allen Frierson, Pasha Bazzell, Lee Willis and Jaron Clayton donned cotton ball turbans to present a court case, “The People of the United States vs. King George III.” The students compiled a research paper and conducted a mock trial of the king, who was accused of taxing the colonists without their consent, cutting off trade and depriving the colonists of trial
Other rooms included projects on problem statements with a persuasive PowerPoint presentation; STEM cells; push and pull factors for ethnic immigrants; animations demonstrating nuclear applications; mobile apps on the Periodic Table of Elements; transformations in video games; a mosaic of quadrilaterals and triangles; the number of cookies that must be baked to make a profit; the best option to seat 60 guests at a Sweet 16 Party; a montage of Young Agents of Change; and new vocabulary for clothes and other commonly purchased items.

Dr. Melissa Crosby, who heads the program, said she was pleased with both the students and teachers who organized and participated in the expo. The kids did a phenomenal job of presenting their projects, she said, and she’s had several positive emails from parents about the event and how the program has helped their child.

But now it's time to move on to a new project. On March 9 Crosby will make a presentation with one of her students, a parent and a teacher from New Tech at the “Transform S.C.” conference in Columbia.

Then on March 23, the S.C. Association for Supervision (superintendents and principals from across S.C.) has selected New Tech as one of four schools to be featured to preset a mini-project on what it's like to implement a New Tech program.

And Crosby and a panel of 13 students will begin working on next quarter’s project, team building.

Four of this year’s student teams have submitted proposals for the New Tech National Conference this summer, and all are eagerly awaiting the selection results. Three of the program’s facilitators have received their certification as New Tech teachers, and two have become trainers for the New Tech Network.

It’s a lot of work, but it’s worth it. “It’s really nice to see a student bloom and grow in areas you don’t typically see in a normal high school environment,” Crosby said.