

Student Showcase Night

*Centreville Elementary School
Centreville, Maryland*

The joint Science Fair/Student Showcase Night took place in the spring, a few days before the final parent-teacher conferences at Centreville Elementary School. The Science Fair was held in the cafeteria, while the Student Showcase took over the rest of the building, including hallways and classrooms.

Families traveled from room to room to look at the students' displays in pre-K to grade 2 and to participate in various activities. In every classroom, there were exhibits of drawings, poetry and student books. Some classes prepared a play or PowerPoint presentation. In the music room, students made and played their own instruments. The media room hosted author presentations and book discussions. Families also proved their physical fitness on an obstacle course developed by the physical education teacher.

Centreville Elementary publicized Science Fair/Student Showcase night in a variety of ways, including the county calendar, class newsletters, principal's newsletter and fliers sent home. This resulted in the participation of more than 300 students, 150 parents and at least 35 teachers, administrators and other staff members.

Many collaborated in organizing the event, including the principal, School Improvement Team, Action Team for Partnerships, unified arts, math-science coordinator, and reading, math and teacher specialist. The math-science coordinator and her science fair team sent out fliers asking students to participate in the fair. All teachers and their students determined what they would display and how they would showcase their work. Besides the time spent planning and preparing, every teacher was present to greet and interact with parents.

Science Fair/Student Showcase Night enabled parents to see how their children were meeting the school's expectations for work at each grade level. The teachers benefited from the interactions with parents in a celebratory atmosphere. Most importantly, the students spotlighted their best work. Exhibiting their accomplishments in a variety of academic and non-academic areas boosted students' confidence and creativity and allowed them to "shine" for the school community.

A teacher said it was "a great night to see the parents and to brag about their child's efforts!" A parent added, "It is nice to see all the students' work on display and see the growth from the beginning of the year."

*Karey Anne Coppage
School Improvement Team Chairperson
(410) 758-1320
coppagek@qacps.k12.md.u*