

News release



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Fourth-grade teacher uses real life classroom lessons and is published in science magazine

The construction of Monroe Elementary School created wonderful opportunities for learning

“Hey, Mrs. P., what’s that thing for?” “How come the ceiling looks like that?” “Why are there handles on those pipes in the hallway?” “How does that thing work?”

The first months in our new school were punctuated by dozens of student questions: in the hallways, in the classrooms, in the cafeteria—everywhere we went. Our new school, besides being built to be environmentally friendly, is designed in a fascinating industrial-tech style that uses non-traditional finishes and exposes many of the normally hidden parts of a building to view. Because my students were so intrigued by things they noticed, the construction manager and I decided to capitalize on their curiosity and create an authentic learning opportunity that supports the growing emphasis on STEM education.

Fourth-grade teacher Barney Peterson from Monroe Elementary was published in January’s issue of [Science and Children](#). This publication is the premier magazine for science and STEM education and features prominent leaders in these fields.

Her article “[Systems of Systems](#)” is featured in the Engineering Encounters section. It details her student’s work with Darcy Walker and their quest to understand all the parts and functions required to make their building, Monroe Elementary, run. She details her students experience learning in an authentic project based learning environment.

Excerpt from Peterson’s article. Read the full article [here](#).