

News release



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Imagination, innovation and invention at Penny Creek Elementary

Second-, third-, and fifth-graders study historic inventions to create new ones

Imagine living in the world before telephones! Do you remember a time when there were no remote controls for television – or the time before televisions? What about the days before computers – or laptops and iPads? Do you remember telephone “party lines?”

Today’s elementary students certainly don’t remember those times, but they’ve been studying the evolution of inventions they and much of the world now take for granted, such as telephones (before cell phones) and computers.

Using scientific inquiry and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts, students brainstormed problems they and others face today. They created ways to solve those problems and set about making prototypes of those creations – experiencing the magic melding of creativity and practicality.



Then students organized an *Invention Convention* for friends and families to visit. On display for the 300-400 people who attended the showcase were more than 90 inventions. They included *The Retractable Remote* (a device to tether your remote to the couch so it's never lost) and *The Bow Wow Belt* (a belt to carry all of your puppy’s needed items).

At times during the event, it was challenging to see who was more excited – the students talking about their creations, or the adults “oooohing and ahhhhing” over items they saw immediate use for.

More is to come from this inventive streak! Ahead is a national competition many students are planning to enter.

Stay tuned. The very next Steve Jobs or Madam Curie might refer to Penny Creek as the original source of inventive genius.

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