



The School District of Osceola County, FL
Terry Andrews, Superintendent

Press Release (English and Spanish)

November 29, 2011 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chestnut Elementary School For Science and Engineering Is Where STEM Meets The Real World

Chestnut Elementary School for Science and Engineering is the place where STEM (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**ath) meets the real world. During the first nine weeks of classes, Christine Carter's engineering students at the elementary school studied interactive construction lessons with various K'Nex building systems, using a team-based problem solving approach to engineering design. Their efforts resulted in the construction of a motorized K'Nex Ferris Wheel that stands six-feet tall and is made up of over 8,550 pieces. It was built over a three-week period by a team of third through fifth grade engineering students and OASIS school volunteers. Kevin Lewis, a 6th grade STEM student at Discovery Intermediate, also assisted with the project after school.

In sharing her thoughts on the lesson, Mrs. Carter said, "This was a wonderful hands-on experience for our students. They were exposed to real-world engineering concepts such as architecture and math, and they gained a sense of accomplishment for completing such an awesome task. I am extremely proud of all the students who worked on this project." Along the way, the students learned much more than just engineering concepts as third grader Raven Lawrence shared. "Building things with K'Nex like bridges, roller coasters, and Ferris Wheels help us know how to be engineers. You just have to believe in yourself."

The large Ferris Wheel will be on display at the front entrance to the school for the remainder of the school year. The display was made possible by a grant from the NEA Foundation.