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Parkview and Washington 3rd Graders Travel to Lego Expo in Concord, MI



This fall Charlotte's Parkview and Washington Elementary students in LEGO League worked hard during after school meetings with their coaches Mr. Wright, Mrs. Brimhall, and Mrs. Gwisdala. At the meetings, teams created and designed a LEGO model for the Creature Craze challenge. Each year, *FIRST* LEGO League Jr. presents a new and exciting challenge to ignite the creativity of children ages 6 to 9. While exploring the real-world theme, teams use basic engineering concepts to build a model made of LEGO elements.

This year's challenge required students to explore honeybees and their habitats. Students did research and chose an animal that shares a habitat with a honey bee. Each team created a LEGO model that showed the chosen habitat, the honeybee, and another animal. Teams were also required to include LEGO motors to make at least one part of their model move. They also created a poster to showcase their research, animal, and LEGO model.

On Saturday, December 10, four teams of Charlotte 3rd graders traveled to Concord, MI for an expo, where they were able to display their LEGO model. At the expo, each of the 12 LEGO League teams presented their models to high school volunteers called "reviewers". During this time, they were able to share what they learned and created during the Creature Craze challenge. This allowed the teams the opportunity to highlight their efforts during the research, design, and building of their models. They were asked questions about the impact the loss of the honeybee would have on the environment and how their teams were able to work through their problems.

At the end of the expo, there was a closing ceremony to celebrate all the teams and their hard work. Each team was presented with a unique award and medals. Third grade Parkview student Hannah Bodell said, "My favorite part was being creative, using your imagination, and working together as a team. I really enjoyed learning and working with other kids!"

Parkview and Washington Elementary LEGO League would like to thank Concord Elementary for hosting the event. A special thank you to the Optimist Club for funding our registration fees and bus transportation to and from the expo. Great job Orioles!