

Dear Parent/ Guardian ,

This year fourth graders will be participating in a special kind of science fair called the Invention Convention. It is designed to promote your child's problem-solving and creative-thinking skills. Your child will be following a step-by-step process to invent a new product or develop a new method for doing something.

We will begin our preparation for the Invention Convention by having the students look at problems in their communities and what they could do to solve them with a invention. By doing so, we hope the students will gain an appreciation for the invention process and thus be better prepared to create their own inventions. The first step in the actual invention process will be finding an idea for an invention. Your child will be encouraged to find a problem that needs to be solved. He or she may ask if you have a need for something that will help you solve a problem. Your interest and encouragement at this stage will help to make the invention process a fun learning experience for your child.

Once your child has settled on an idea and I have approved it, students will start the planning stage. In which they will begin researching, brainstorming and finally building their invention.

As your child begins the actual process of inventing, your continued interest and encouragement will be helpful. Discuss the progress he or she is making and any problems that are encountered. Remind your child that although inventors often experience failure along the way, they remain persistent and keep trying and thinking of new ideas to solve a problem. The Invention Convention will be held on **Thursday, June 7th . Parents can come from 9 a.m.- 10 a.m.**

You are invited to attend the event. Each student's entry will be judged as will the student's knowledge of his or her invention.

We know your child will enjoy and benefit from this experience in scientific problem solving. Although we want you to encourage to your child in this inventive effort, we ask you not to become overly involved in your child's project. Your support and cooperation are greatly appreciated. We hope to see you at the Invention Convention!

Sincerely,
Marisa Pfeiffer

Timeline:

April 30th-May 4th-Introduction to project. Begin research

May 7th- 11th-Imagine Phase: brainstorm ideas and get one approved.

Plan Phase: Draw a design, make a procedure and material list.

May 14th-18th- Create and Test Prototype

May 21st-25th- Create and Test Prototype

May 29th-June 1st-Improve: Redesign as needed.Prepare for presentation

June 4th-6th- Prepare for presentation (powerpoint slide presentation)

June 7th- Invention Convention