

THE ACE JOURNEY

ACADEMICS • CREATIVITY • EXCELLENCE



The newsletter of ACE Academy - Austin's first and only school dedicated to understanding, engaging, and nurturing the gifted child.

APRIL 2013



Photo by Caroline Poe

BIG IDEAS SHINE AT ACE INNOVATION

ACE STUDENTS LIVE UP TO MOTTO OF 'NO LIMITS'

ACE students of all ages boasted their ingenuity, creativity, and insight at ACE Innovation, proving once again there really are *No Limits* at ACE Academy.

ACE Innovation was held on Saturday, April 20, over three floors of the UT Thompson Conference Center. In the Expo Hall, crowds gathered to see student inventions and businesses, from decryption devices and ideas for wind- and solar-powered cars to paint tube waste-reducers and custom screen-printed T-shirts. Alongside our students were interactive tables hosted by The Robot Group, a non-profit that uses technology to explore new mediums for art, and GameSalad, a game design company.

Primary students shared inventions such as an "Animal Translator" and "World Protector" on the third floor, while audience members enjoyed lively presentations from guest speakers Danny Pernik, Dr. Steven Nichols, and "Distinguished ACE Student Speaker" Mary Farrell, who enlightened us with her research on the Stroop Test, a neuropsychological experiment.

ACE Innovation is our signature event and students worked hard over the months leading up to it, planning and building their ideas through special Build It! labs, dedicated classtime, and one-on-one talks. Students also participated in "Inventive Thinking Week" in November, where they spent time learning

various creative and inventive thinking strategies to build the foundation for their ACE Innovation projects.

ACE Innovation 2013 was a phenomenal success. Huge thanks go to faculty member Tabitha Molett and parent Alan Pita for planning, organizing, and orchestrating ACE Innovation, to our faculty, speakers, Board President Dr. Peggy Kruger, interactive hosts The Robot Group and GameSalad, and to National Instruments, which underwrote part of the costs of ACE Innovation.

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Mark Tschirhart in *Harvey*
Photo by Mike Primm

HARVEY

ACE middle and high school students performed Mary Chase's *Harvey* on Saturday, March 23rd at the Scottish Rite Theatre in downtown Austin.

With acting, timing, humor, technical sound and lighting all delightfully in synch, the performance was a huge success.

The cast and crew celebrated with an after party at Scholz Garden. Thanks to Mrs. Adderley and Ms. Grace for directing such a sophisticated performance, and to the Lind Family Charitable Foundation for helping support the production.

NCAA FENCING TRIP

ACE student **Nicholas Cummings** writes about his field trip to NCAA Fencing:

Imagine being in a crowd, watching as hundreds of people down in an arena rush towards each other, their blades clashing, their only goal to impale their opponents. They have to be warriors fighting to the death, right? Well, not really—this would be the 2013 NCAA Fencing championships.

This year, every fencing student at ACE Academy went on a field trip to this event to watch professionals fence and to support Coach Brewer, who was refereeing at the tournament.

The event took place at the Freeman Coliseum in San Antonio, Texas. Nine different bouts were fenced at one time between the 144 total fencers, in the weapons of saber, épée, and foil. The students stayed at the tournament for two hours, and were even filmed by ESPN as a visiting group before returning to school as the semifinals began.

Even without seeing the last few bouts, watching all of those professionals moving so quickly and with such ease inspired the students and gave them all something to aim for.



ACE fencers at the NCAA Fencing Championships

ODIM GALLERY NIGHT

ACE student **Arjun Malik** tells us about Gallery Night 2013:



ACE middle and high schoolers toasting gallery night

The second annual Gallery Night took place on April 2nd and 4th, having been split into two nights in order to make room for every student's presentation. There were, in fact, 32 Middle and High School students presenting in Smith Hall those two evenings, with the ODIM advisors, Mr. Pernik, Ms. Hinchliffe, Ms. Meyer, and Ms. Molett, organizing the event.

ODIM is a class where students attend modules led by teachers or other students. These students presented on modules they were interested in and had engaged in throughout the entire year.

Student presentations addressed everything from breadmaking (with free samples) and coding, to showing off writing, art, and leadership projects. Of course, there were combinations that would only occur at ACE, like someone showing off a Rube Goldberg Machine. Students used Powerpoint, videos, and their own speaking skills to show us their journeys through ODIM.

AUSTIN GIFTED UPDATES

ACE TEAMS COMPETE



The ACE **Destination Imagination** structure team competed at the State Tournament in Katy on April 13 and emerged with an honorable 8th place. Their structure held over 500 pounds and sustained battering ram impacts, without ever buckling, until time ran out. Congratulations to team members Eli Taub, Sam Shvets, Landen Kerns, Matthew Reysa, Maxwell Wyatt, and Yasmin Barnes, their very supportive parents, and Team Manager Donna Hulsey.



High Schoolers Aaron Altmejd, Ly Poe, and Kiran Tomlinson represented ACE at **HP Code Wars**, an on-the-spot programming competition, in Houston on March 1.

According to high school coach Randy Hollensbe, the team met their challenges with precision and style, and placed 8th out of 109 teams.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2013

- 5/6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
- Wed. 5/8 Information Session 1:00 PM
- Fri. 5/10 *Sherlock Holmes* 1:00 PM (CBI Sanctuary)
- Mon. 5/13 *Sherlock Holmes* 5:30 PM (CBI Sanctuary)
- Wed. 5/15 Field Studies Day (Shavuot)
- Tue. 5/23 Elem. Choir and MS Band Spring Concert 4 PM
- Thu. 5/23 Last day of school