

PLEASE MODIFY THIS TO REFLECT YOUR CLASSROOM

October 2023

Dear Parent,

This year our class 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 solving a problem that s/he identifies in his or her life, or your family or the community. Due to the current pandemic situation, this year our fair will be “virtual”!

We have begun our preparation for the Invention Convention by having the students learn about inventors and their inventions. We've also done a number of activities in our class or online to assist us in thinking outside of the box **(IDENTIFY SOME ACTIVITIES YOU'VE DONE WITH YOUR STUDENTS, HERE)**. By doing some of these activities, we hope the students will gain an appreciation for the inventing process and thus be better prepared to create their own inventions. The first step in the actual inventing 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 inventing process a fun learning experience for your child.

Once your child has settled on an idea and researched it to make sure that the idea has not been used before, an Intent to Invent form will be completed and you will be asked for your signature. Your child can then begin the planning stage as well as begin keeping his/her Invention Log.

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. It is important that your young inventor uses the Invention Log to document his/her inventing process as it unfolds.

You will be invited to be a judge in this year's virtual Invention Convention, which will take place later in the year. A video describing each student's entry will be judged, as will the student's knowledge of his or her invention, and a Certificate will be awarded to each participant. We know your child will enjoy and benefit from this experience in scientific problem solving. Although we want you to encourage your child in this inventive effort, we ask you not to become overly involved in your child's project. Your support and cooperation in this are greatly appreciated.

We will continue to update you as the program progresses.

Sincerely,