

Fall 2018

What's Happening in STREAM at Solana Ranch?



Playground Forces

This fall, Solana Ranch third graders are busy at work to make a major improvement to the school playground. This interdisciplinary project is engaging their minds, hands --and even their hearts!-- in every aspect of STREAM (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Art, and Math.)

The Challenge

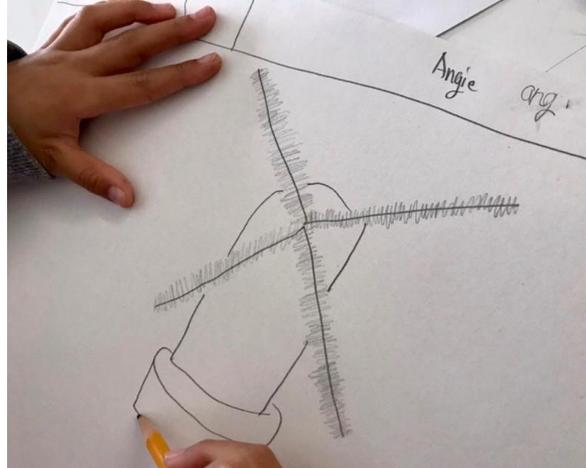
Mr. Gayta gave students a very important problem to solve: How can we make recess more accessible to all people?

Third graders brainstormed and came to a consensus that a mini golf course at Solana Ranch would be the perfect addition to the existing facilities. If designed well, it would allow all children **and** adults to play, regardless of skill level, and it would help bring the school community together.

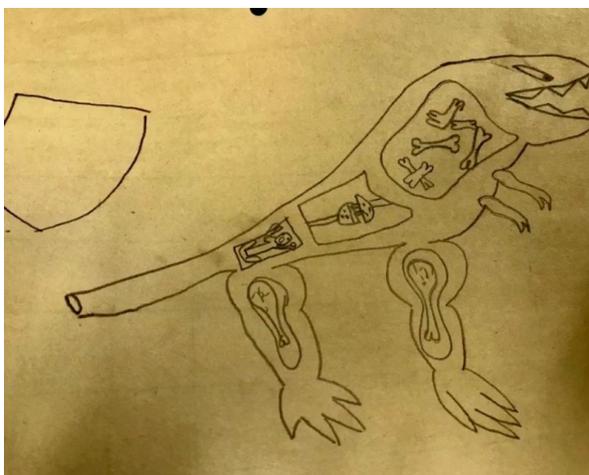
The Process

Students kicked off this Project Based Learning Unit in the Art Discovery Lab, immersing themselves in studies of famous artists such as Van Gogh, O'Keeffe, and Haring for visual inspiration.

Students then began to design their mini golf course with these artists' work in mind.



Students are continuing their investigations in the Tech Discovery Lab, using digital media to design their rules, hole markers, and artistic details.



In the STREAM Discovery Lab, students are focusing on the engineering structures and mechanics of their golf course, incorporating their understanding of balanced and unbalanced forces and utilizing the Carvey and 3D printers to finish the last minute touches on their designs.



Third graders have been imaginative problem-solvers and thoughtful, effective collaborators throughout this unit. It is an ongoing project that, when completed, will be a permanent fixture on Solana Ranch school grounds for children and adults to use during school hours.

Student Feedback

Students tell Mr. Gayta that they are extremely excited about actually building something that they will be able to use and share with friends on a daily basis, all the while learning about forces! They are looking forward to being the leaders of the school in teaching everyone how to play mini golf on this course. Most especially, they are very proud that they are contributing to their school by making recess and playground facilities more equitable and accessible for all.

What a wonderful experience for Solana Ranch students to see their hard work on a school project address a real-world problem and make a meaningful and enduring contribution to their school community!

The big reveal will be in January! Stay tuned!

To see great photos and videos of this project and others in the STREAM Lab check out:

@SRHawksSTREAM on Twitter!



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