



Meet the Next Generation of Scientists and Engineers at Lynn's Lincoln-Thomson Elementary School

By Staff reports

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Lynn — Students at the top-performing science school in the district, Lincoln-Thomson Elementary, will host state and local elected officials, education leaders and business representatives on Monday, to show them the school's model science program in action.

Visitors will see the 5th-grade student scientists as they engineer model cranes as part of their simple machines unit. The event coincides with last week's release of the first draft of Next Generation Science Standards, a state-led initiative to refocus science and engineering education to include more hands-on practices.

Attending the event will be State Sen. Thomas McGee, State Rep. Robert Fennell, State Rep. Steven Walsh, Lynn Superintendent Dr. Catherine Latham, and DESE director of Science and Technology/Engineering Jacob Foster, as well as members of Lynn School Committee, the Office of State Rep. John Keenan, the GE Volunteer Foundation, the Dominion Foundation and the Gelfand Family Charitable Trust.

Lincoln Thomson Elementary has been the district leader on the science and technology! engineering Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System exam for the past two years, after implementing a hands-on science program developed by KnowAtom, LLC. Lincoln Thomson 5th-grade exam scores have increased 25 percentage points since before the program's implementation in the 2009-2010 school year. Since then, students have performed 11 percentage points above the state average on the exam, and no student has scored in the "Warning" category.

"Our students are not 'taking' science; they are 'becoming' scientists," Mihos says. "The consistency of hands-on experiments and engineering challenges cultivate our students' critical thinking skills and prepare them to compete successfully in the global economy."

The event will take place Monday, May 21, 10 a.m. in the second-floor auditorium at Lincoln-Thomson Elementary, 115 Gardiner St.

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