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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## MES LEGO Expo

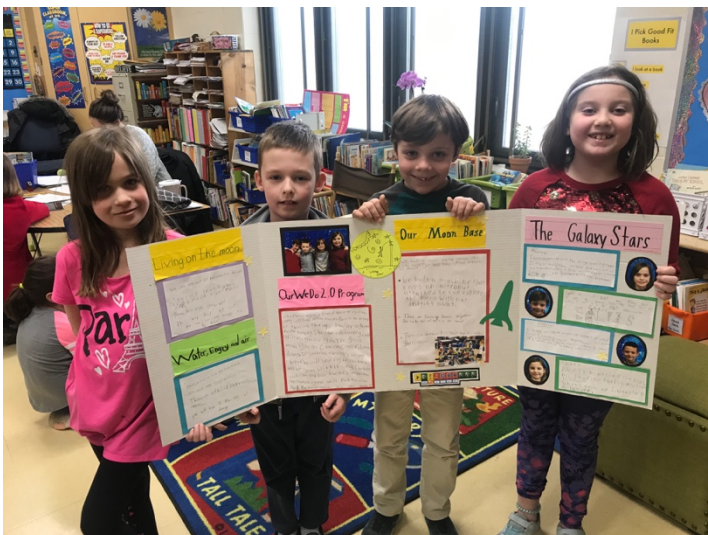
A group of Madeira Elementary School (MES) second graders learned about coding, robotics, and life on the moon – all with the help of LEGOs.

Students were introduced to basic STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts with the help of the 'Mission Moon Challenge' - a program offered by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League Jr. The hands on program presented students with the challenge of designing and building an inhabitable moon base, with at least one motorized part, using the LEGO Education software WeDo2.

Small groups of Madeira second grade students with team names such as Galaxy Stars, Shooting Rockets and Space Launchers spent six weeks researching the moon and what kind of problems they'd have to solve to be able to live there. Each team designed a solution to one of the problems and incorporated it into their moon base which they built out of LEGO building bricks. In addition, each student designed a special element that was incorporated into their team's moon base. Emma Oxenham added a reading loft, Jennifer Willingham built a bathroom, and Jaden Petach designed an escape pod. "I learned there is no gravity in space," Conner Henkel added "so I built a tethered line." Each team also designed a Show Me poster incorporating their process and the elements in their design.

The culminating event for the program was an Expo at MES which provided teams with an opportunity to showcase what they learned with their families, friends, and community. Each team shared its poster and demonstrated specifics about their model moon base. Guest judges awarded teams certificates for 'Amazing Movement Award,' 'Against All Odds,' 'Complexity and Decoration,' and 'Construction Innovation.'

Teachers of the students who participated are Tammy Saunders and Jennifer Walker. The Expo was sponsored by 43 Robotics, a community group helping to provide kids in or near the 45243 zip code with hands-on STEM activities.



Team Galaxy Stars with their Show Me poster from the Expo (pictured l to r): Ashley Douglas, Cameron Lubert, Connor Henke, and Lainey Gavigan.