

SPARK Academy

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 27, 2023

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DRONE WORKSHOP TOMORROW 10/28

This Saturday there is an Aerial Drone Workshop at Manchester Community College in the MPR from 8am - 2pm.

All are welcome! This is an informal event with lots of hands-on opportunity, organized by Louann Cormier of the RECF. Come and see what this new drone program is all about.

CALENDAR WINNERS

- Oct. 20 – Wayne Ingersoll (ticket sold by Tristan N) \$20
- Oct. 21 – Adrienne Comeau (sold by Tayor C) \$20
- Oct. 22 – Sheri Karstok (sold by Malaki P) \$20
- Oct. 23 – Syed Tahir (sold by Amaan T) \$100!
- Oct. 24 – Daryl Moore (sold by Tristan N) \$20
- Oct. 25 – Eric Perron (sold by Malaki P) \$20
- Oct. 26 – Howell Martinez (sold by Theo M) \$20

Congratulations to all and THANK YOU, Tom Kane and Daryl Moore for donating your winnings back to Spark!

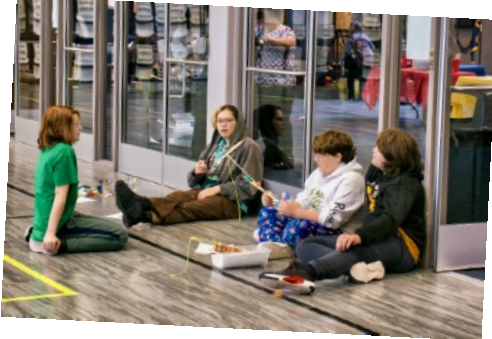
ALMA NEWS

Last week we sent out two separate emails advising you about setting your password and logging in to Alma for the first time. Please be sure to follow the link in the first email sent out on 10/20 to activate your account if you have not done so. The sender is Spark Academy and the subject line is "Alma Account Setup."

Weather-related school closing notifications will now be sent through Alma! You will receive them via email plus a phone call or text message depending on your settings within Alma. We also post school closing announcements on WMUR's website and on the school Facebook page.

Important: effective immediately, we will be sending out report cards at the end of each semester ONLY, rather than at the end of each quarter. We will provide progress reports two or three times per marking period to help keep you up to date. The first progress report for this year will be coming out just after what would have been the end of the first quarter, November 8. We will provide another in December, before the semester end in January when the report cards will come out. Both progress reports and report cards will be available on the new portal in Alma.





ROBOTICS COMPETITION SATURDAY 11/4

Next Saturday is the first NH VEX Robotics competition of the season and it's being hosted at MCC. Volunteers wanted! Students will earn required volunteer hours by signing up to help from 7:30-noon or noon-4:30. No prior experience necessary. Please contact Mr. or Mrs. Larochelle to sign up and we also hope to see many of you there as spectators! Vex competitions are free to the public. More info here: <https://www.robotevents.com/robot-competitions/vex-robotics-competition/RE-VRC-23-2750.html#general-info>

HALLOWEEN AT SPARK

Once again, Student Council's Activities Committee has lined up some holiday fun for our school community next Tuesday, October 31. Students may come to school in costume provided they follow all dress code, safety, and common-sense guidelines. Bring a pumpkin if you wish to carve one and ask your Student Council representative for details about the other afternoon activities – signups are in the hallway near the front desk.

MORE FROM STUDENT COUNCIL

Hello Spark! Next Monday, the day before Halloween, Student Council and Creativity Club are hosting a bake sale to fund the student-run activities on Tuesday. We will be out in the hall during the lunch hour. All goods will be labeled with ingredients and individually packaged.

COVID-19 HAS NOT DISAPPEARED

Please continue to follow best practices for prevention, as well as current CDC guidance found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>

Also: stay home if you are sick, cover your coughs and sneezes, and wash your hands frequently and properly. Thank you.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Parent Support Committee for the breakfast sent in recently for Spark teachers and staff. Thank you also to everyone who has sent in snack and lunch items for our students! This week, we could use some ramen noodles if anyone is inclined to send them in.

The photos in this week's newsletter are of our First Years students' mousetrap car projects in Physical Science class.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ✓ 10/30 – Student Council Halloween Bake Sale
- ✓ 11/4 – VEX Robotics Competition at MCC
- ✓ 11/8 – End of first marking period, progress reports to follow
- ✓ 11/9 – No Spark classes (staff workshop day)
- ✓ 11/10 – No Spark classes (Veterans Day)
- ✓ 11/22-11/24 – Thanksgiving Break

TUTTLE THOUGHTS

It is hard to believe that we have been in school for 2 months and we are starting to think about the end of the first quarter. This can cause a level of stress for everyone. Teachers need to make sure that grades are current and students are completing work; students need to make sure that they have turned in all of their assignments; and parents are making sure that their child is meeting their expectations.

Here at Spark we want to create great problem solvers and leaders, and both of these require you to have the skills and ability to deal with stress. The first step of this is to know how to read the early signs of stress that your body tries to tell you. Your heart rate may increase, your face may turn red, you might get angry or you might get extra quiet. Pay attention to these signs.

I feel that it is important to remind people that one of the best ways to deal with stress is to use your words. NO ONE can read your mind. It is not bad to ask for help. Everyone needs help at times and asking for it is a sign of strength. I ask you all to use your strength in communicating with your students, your teachers, and your parents to make sure that everyone is aware of what is going on.

Please take the time to touch base with someone you care about and really check in with them for support. This is not just saying "hi" and "how are you doing." Dig in and have a real conversation, it will make a difference.

John Tuttle

Director

