

Spark

Academy of Advanced Technologies
Igniting your purpose!



School Community Newsletter — March 25, 2022

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MS. PRINGLE NAMED TECH EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR!

Ms. Karen Pringle has been named TechWomen/TechGirls Educator of the Year by the NH Tech Alliance! We are very proud of this well-deserved achievement by one of Spark Academy's most dedicated teachers.

From their website, "TechWomen/TechGirls is a NH Tech Alliance initiative focused on building a strong community of female professionals enthusiastic about technology and supporting efforts where girls are exploring STEM as a career or area of study."

Ms. Pringle will be honored at an annual awards luncheon in June. From the entire Spark family: congratulations, Ms. Pringle!!



SPARK STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS!

We have some Spark student achievements and recognitions to share with you this week, too!

- The two Spark Academy teams that competed in this year's SkillsUSA Mobile Robotics competition won first and second place in the state! Caleb Smith & John Laroche won the gold medal, and Tyler Timlin & Damien Corrow won the silver medal. Congratulations to all! You can learn all about SkillsUSA here: <https://www.skillsusa.org/>
- Michael Paradis, a member of DaVinci cohort, won the Alex Higgins Memorial Space Camp Scholarship to attend the Advanced Space Academy camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL this summer. Congratulations, Michael! More info on the Center and their other camps is available here: <https://www.spacecamp.com/space/advancedacademy>





CALENDAR RAFFLE UPDATE

We will begin selling tickets for the MAY 2022 calendar raffle next month. We are looking for 100% participation from our students and their families! There will be daily prizes through May, so please begin spreading the word to friends and family members. Thank you to Kelly Mullin of the Parent Support Committee for all her hard work in putting this fundraising effort together. The next meeting of the PS Committee is April 7 at 6:00 PM– all are welcome to join!

THANK YOU!

Our bake sale this week was a smashing success! Thank you so much to everyone who contributed time, energy, and delicious treats to this effort.



ENROLLMENT FOR 2022-23

We were very excited to host three prospective students for a shadow day this week! If you know of any motivated, hardworking young people who are entering high school next year and think they would be a good fit for Spark, please send them our way. Spots are filling up fast and we are only accepting two new cohorts for next year. Reminder that our next Info Night is Tuesday, 3/29 at 6:30.



OTHER UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE

Hooke and Tesla cohorts and some members of DaVinci will have the opportunity to sit for the CSWA Certification exam next **Wednesday, 3/30**. This is a professional-level SOLIDWORKS certification which can go on a resume. You can learn more about what this means here: <https://www.goengineer.com/solidworks-certification/cswa>

Upcoming Information Nights for Prospective Families: 3/29, 4/7, and 4/20 at 6:30 PM

Next Zoom With the Director: 4/11 at 6:30PM

Next Parent Support Committee meeting: 4/7 at 6:00 PM



TUTTLE THOUGHTS

So many times people talk about getting out of one's comfort zone and creating opportunities to learn. This philosophy means that the best type of learning is when we are challenged and/or have a chance to learn from our failures. (I am sure that this was not the plan when coming out of a pandemic.) Then there are some that say stability and consistency is the foundation to learning, which means that if a student does not know the expectations or is in a setting that is unpredictable, they will not be able to learn.

How, then, do we make sure that all students are getting what they need for their learning and success, given these opposite ideas? At Spark Academy, we focus on creating a culture that makes all of the students feel safe and supported. Things could change every day, so having a person to check in with, a person that you know is there for you and a person that you can trust is key. The purpose of our cohort model is to set the stage for this supportive environment, and once that is set we are able to create different situations that challenge students to step out of their comfort zone.

We are excited to look for new and exciting ways for our students to learn and grow in our school, whether that means an internship, more field trips, working with others, or completing an assignment. We are always focusing on making sure that everyone is feeling safe and supported so that they can have a place from which to challenge themselves and step out of their comfort zone.

Have a great weekend!

John Tuttle
Director