

ERfC Opens Hands On Learning Skill Center

School Stuff

Submitted by Maripat Finigan on 2009-11-04.

ERfC is pleased to announce the opening of an innovative program that offers students the chance to participate in project based learning. The Skill Center will provide a project called "Raise the Roof" during which students will build an actual room.

The activity will introduce seventh and eighth graders to carpentry, electrical work, masonry, and plumbing in a series of 12 hour-long workshops taught by experienced trades people. Students will gain critical skills through learning by doing and will be able to connect their learning to the real world. The project is designed and coordinated by engineer Rob Lamagna of Enfield. Lamagna has been working with ERfC for the past 10 years developing the Making of Technology programs using project based learning in science, math and technology.

Lamagna said, "We are incredibly excited about 'Raise the Roof'. Students participating in the project will be building a room from start to finish; they will be measuring, hammering, and sawing their way through an engaging, project based learning experience."

The Skill Center operates its program through project based learning, a dynamic approach to teaching in which students explore real world problems and challenges. With this type of active and engaged learning, students are inspired to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subject they are studying. "Raise the Roof" is available for all students in the JFK Middle School on Wednesday and Thursday. Students can participate 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. or 4:15 - 5:20 p.m. There is no fee for registration. Visit www.erc.us for enrollment information.

ERfC, a community-based non-profit organization dedicated to increasing youth resiliency, has been providing innovative after-school programming since 1994 to the Enfield Community. ERfC currently operates three Learning Centers. JFK After School operates four days a week from 2:30 to 6 p.m. while the Alcorn & Enfield Street and the Barnard & Crandall Learning Centers operate five days a week from 3 to 6 p.m. for elementary school children.

ERfC also provides the new KidZ Sports program after school at Stowe and Barnard Schools. ERfC programs are partially funded through grants and community donations. For more information about ERfC Learning Centers and how to enroll children, call 860-253-9935, e-mail info@erc.us, or refer to the ERfC website at www.erc.us.