

LASF Brings Lawrence Hall of Science's "Build It!" to Math Fairs

By Jean Follmer

The Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation recently held its annual Math Fairs at the Lafayette schools.

This was the first year the Math Fairs featured the "Build It!" program from the Lawrence Hall of Science. Build It! is one of the Lawrence Hall of Science's most popular festivals. It encourages participants to put on their engineer and architect hats using "design, problem-solving, and spatial skills by constructing in two and three dimensions."

Some of the topics included "two and three dimensional geometry, tessellations, proportion, spatial visualization and creative problem solving." Surrounded by polyhedra, blocks and cubes, LHS employee Randal Wung wore festive attire and circulated the fair helping students build everything from arched bridges to towers made from newspaper dowels. It was impressive to watch him swoop in to watch and help the students. Wung had a busy week saying "This has been going on quite a bit. We're doing it tomorrow and the next day too." The aid of the many volunteers who staffed the activity stations enabled Wung to make his rounds in the multi-purpose room.

Springhill LASF Math Fair coordinator, Meagan Hagglund, felt the LASF Math Fair was a resounding success. Hagglund said "This is my first time chairing an



Randal Wung from the Lawrence Hall of Science engages students at the LASF Math Fair Photo Jean Follmer

LASF event and I loved it! It was a great way to gently ease into a position here at Springhill and I have always loved the Lawrence Hall of Science. The evening was a blast! We had a great turnout and the festival "Build It!" was so appropriate for all our students. The hit of the night was seeing all the parents sitting on the floor rolling these paper dowels so the kids

could build "whatever" with them. The paper dowels were being used to build hats, teepees, rockets, houses, etc." Wung said "We'll try to salvage as many dowels as we can for tomorrow night" since they take some time to roll. The students were allowed to bring any paper items they worked on home, so families left with towering structures made from the newspaper

dowels. Hagglund also took home some family benefits from the Build It! festival saying "I learned 5 or 6 different projects I could do at home with my girls that don't require a lot of prep." It seems Build It! could make another appearance in Lafayette.