

## **Washington Mathematics Science technology Public Charter High School**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual STEM Field Day**

On May 2nd, 2014 WMST held its fourth annual STEM Field Day at the DC Armory. The event was created and organized by the Technology Department. This year the event expanded to include special demonstrations by NASA's Traveling Space Museum, tight security at the D.C. Armory thanks to the hosts, the D.C. National Guard and entertainment with special appearance by Shy Glizzy. Also in attendance as the guest speaker was Brigadier General Renwick L Payne, Adjutant General, District of Columbia National Guard.

While each of the prior Field Days have been packed with engaging and enriching activities that posed both mental and physical challenges, this field day vaulted to the top in fully engaging student intellect and physical fitness. In addition to changing the venue, the Technology Department took care to incorporate many new activities as well as some of the favorites from years past. Partnering with NASA's Traveling Space Museum and D.C. National Guard volunteers, the Technology Department was able to offer a variety of demonstrations and exhibits.

Following are some examples of the increased level of technology and engineering offered the students:

- ◆ The Mobile Space Lab taught students how laboratory technicians cope with zero gravity while conducting experiments at the Space Station.
- ◆ The Lunar Roving Vehicle was an example of how knowledge, planning, and engineering become an actual, usable product for space exploration.
- ◆ The Anti-Gravity Boots activity allowed students to see first-hand how astronauts felt during their first walks on the moon and how gravitational variation must be an engineering consideration for interplanetary exploration.
- ◆ The D.C. National Guard provided volunteers to supervise one of the old favorites, the Crocodile Walk which emphasizes the importance of teamwork and communication to accomplish a task.

- ◆ NASA's TSM Hovercraft demonstration was a show of ingenuity in the manipulation of scientific principles to work to our advantage.

What was excellent about the entire day was that each of the nineteen stations came with a lesson. The lessons were not so explicit that the students felt they were just at school in another building nor were they so implicit that they could not learn without strenuous thought.

WMST would like to thank Howard Middle School and the Youth Challenge program for joining in our fourth annual STEM Field Day. It was an honor to have both schools participate in the activities and it is hoped that they will return for next year's Field Day.

Technology department Members: Ms. Vivienne Forrester, Col. Clyde Henderson, Chief Stephen Maynard, Mr. Carsten Binsner, Mr. Mohammed Nouristani.

*Photos from Field day*



