

NEWSLETTER

KIDS AND SCIENCE



CLK works to level the playing field for STEM programming

Christie Lake Kids (CLK) may have become famous for its initial emphasis on providing camp and outdoor experiences to enhance and improve children's development, but over time the focus has diversified. Today, CLK afterschool programs build skills in a variety of areas, transforming lives in the process. Special emphasis is being placed on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programming, now being delivered within the STAR program and incorporated into camp programs as well. In addition, there is a Lego Robotics program for older youth and this month, CLK participated in Science Odyssey.

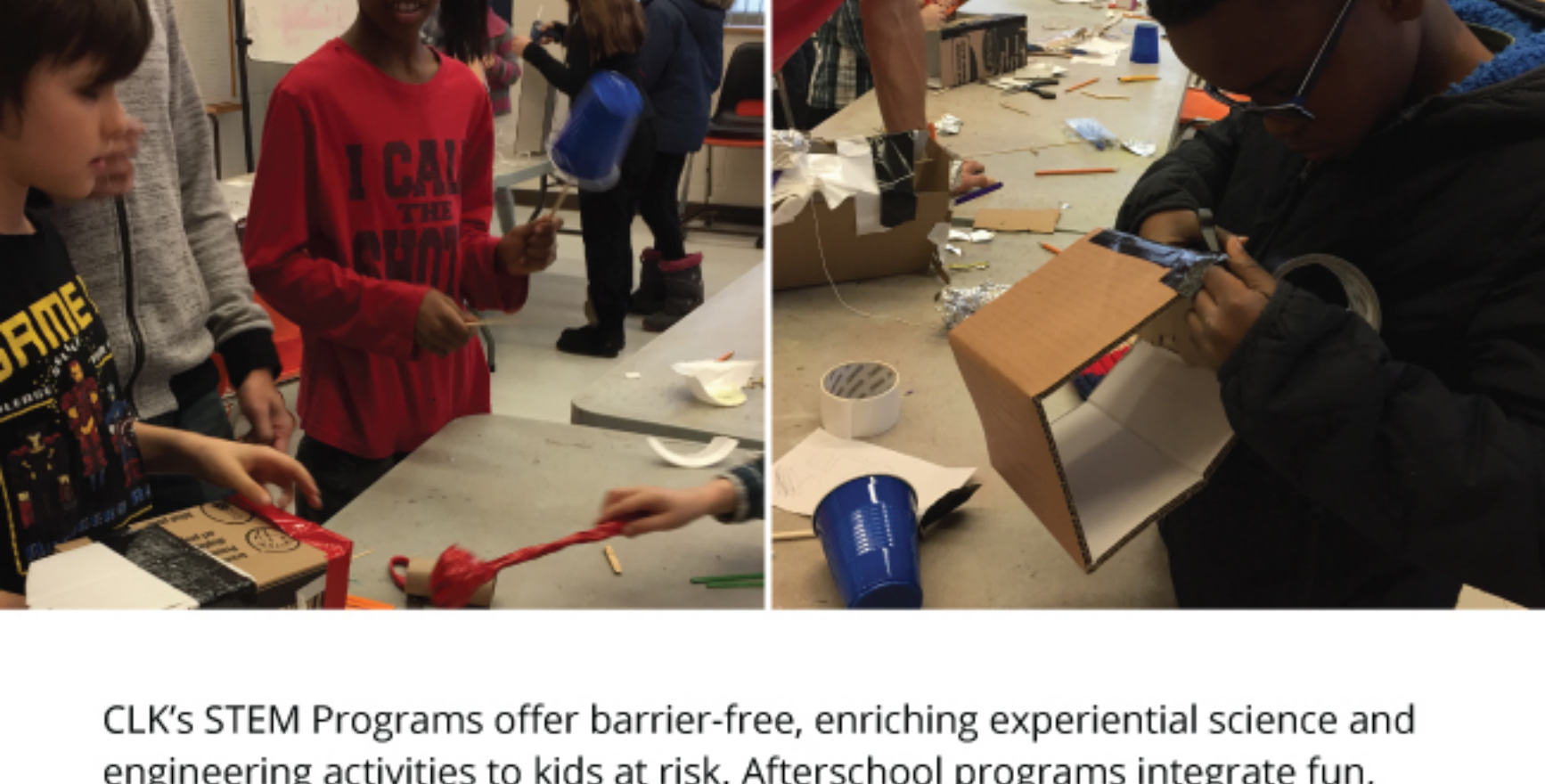


More than 70 percent of students participating in STEM-focused after-school programs report increased interest in STEM careers.

Why does CLK want to make sure that children from priority neighbourhoods have access to STEM resources beyond what they are exposed to at school? Simply put, it has been proven that youth with economic disadvantages often lag behind their peers when it comes to scholastic achievements, especially in science and mathematics. Children exposed to STEM educational resources at a very young age perform better in science and math than students who are not.

Participation in STEM-focused afterschool programs has been proven to lead to major, positive changes in students' attitudes toward science.

Historically, children from lower income homes have not enjoyed proportional success rates at science fairs and spend significantly less time than youth from middle-income households engaged in after school and summertime learning activities. Quality STEM after-school programs, such as those conducted by Christie Lake Kids, help to reverse these conditions and have been shown to increase the likelihood of high school graduation and pursuit of STEM careers. Participation in STEM-focused afterschool programs has also been proven to lead to major, positive changes in students' attitudes toward science. Studies report positive gains in areas such as STEM interest, STEM identity, STEM career interest, knowledge and key 21st-century skills (including perseverance and critical thinking).



CLK's STEM Programs offer barrier-free, enriching experiential science and engineering activities to kids at risk. Afterschool programs integrate fun, hands-on activities including Lego robotics, windmills and lasers and light programs. Weekend camps feature activities related to ecology and earth sciences including activities in nature with the use of large outdoor spaces. Hundreds of kids attending summer camp sessions benefit from programming including community gardening, aquatic studies and activities within the on-site Nature Centre. Time at camp enables us to extend the learning that happens through our STEM programs and infuse new elements into two weeks of fun through activities on solar/wind energy, campfire science, creek study, wildlife science, native plant species and more.



Access to quality STEM after-school programs, such as those conducted by Christie Lake Kids, increase the likelihood of graduation and pursuit of STEM careers.

In our experience, the disadvantaged children and youth participating in both after-school and camp activities become highly motivated, excited and inspired by science programming which translates well to improved outcomes for them in more formal education settings. It is exciting for everyone at CLK to be involved in shaping a better academic and career future for kids in need.

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Why do CLK's STEM programs matter?

Children from lower-income families spend 6,000 fewer hours than those from middle-income families engaged in after-school and summer learning activities, leading to significantly decreased interest in STEM activities.

Christie Lake Kids is working to reverse this disparity, providing STEM activities to hundreds of Ottawa children from priority neighbourhoods, including:



324 kids in CLK afterschool programs

200 kids who participate in CLK weekend camps

400 kids who attend CLK summer camps

We are grateful to our many partners who help to offset the cost of these important STEM activities.

VISIT WEBSITE

UPCOMING EVENT



Join us on August 15th, 2018 at Emerald Links! Let's beat last years record amount raised of \$100,000 for our Leaders in Training Program! We are so grateful for the continued support within the Ottawa community; you continue to help us help our kids!

[Learn More...](#)