

STUDENTS PARTICPATE IN ENGINEERING WEEK CHALLENGE
WALLINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HARLAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Students from Wallins Elementary School recently competed in and took 2nd Place overall at the Middle School Level in the Engineering Week Challenge. Mrs. Amy Cottrell's sixth grade class was presented the challenge and began brainstorming ways to engineer solutions to global problems. This was a collaborative effort between the Kentucky Valley Education Cooperative (KVEC), the University of Louisville School of Engineering and school districts in the KVEC region. Students were given several global issues and were asked to develop solution plans and build prototypes to address a selected issue. The students from Wallins Elementary chose to address the need for electricity in rural India focusing on the use of solar power. The students developed a delivery prototype using balloon power and global wind paths to deliver solar panels, batteries and installation materials. A design process plan was required with investigation into the problem, possible causes, solutions and constraints. The Wallins' students collaborated with Belfry High School physics students and Dr. Chandrin Haridas, KCTCS instructor Ronnie Daniels, Mrs. Virginia Rice and an engineering student from the J.B. Speed School of Engineering at the University of Louisville in the development of their working prototype. Teacher Amy Cottrell stated, "The students are already talking about what they can do next year" in regard to the engineering challenge participation. The contest was held in conjunction with Engineer's Week in February and was judged by Mary Cait Rolph, Chemical Engineer; Taryn Cantrell, Civil/Environmental Engineer; Laken Hamilton, Industrial Engineer and Alec Thompson, Structural/Civil Engineer.

Student engineers on the winning team are:

Back Row: Breydy Daniels, Lucas Epperson, and Riley Murphy

Front Row: Randall Blanton, Cameron Williams, and Luke Cottrell.





Author: David J. Hensley, IC
District: Harlan County Schools
Email: David.hensley1@harlan.kyschools.us