



November 14, 2022

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

This year our class will be participating in a special kind of science fair called the Invention Convention. It is designed to promote your child's problem-solving and creative-thinking skills. Your child will be following a step-by-step process to invent a new product or develop a new method for solving a problem that s/he identifies in his or her life, or your family or the community.

We have begun our preparation for the Invention Convention by having the students learn about inventors and their inventions. We've also done a number of activities in our class to assist us in thinking outside of the box (**back scratcher, mystery item activity, and scamper lesson**). By doing some of these activities, we hope the students will gain an appreciation for the inventing process and thus be better prepared to create their own inventions. The first step in the actual inventing process will be finding an idea for an invention. Your child will be encouraged to find a problem that needs to be solved. He or she may ask if you have a need for something that will help you solve a problem. Your interest and encouragement at this stage will help to make the inventing process a fun learning experience for your child.

Once your child has settled on an idea and researched it to make sure that the idea has not been used before, an **Intent to Invent** form will be completed in class and brought home for your signature. Your child can then begin the planning stage as well as begin keeping his/her **Invention Log**.

As your child begins the actual process of inventing, your continued interest and encouragement will be helpful. Discuss the progress he or she is making and any problems that are encountered. Remind your child that although inventors often experience failure along the way, they remain persistent and keep trying and thinking of new ideas to solve a problem. It is important that your young inventor uses the Invention Log to document his/her inventing process as it unfolds.

You are invited to attend our class' Invention Convention, which will take place later in the year. Each student's entry will be judged, as will the student's knowledge of his or her invention, and a Certificate will be awarded to each participant. We know your child will enjoy and benefit from this experience in scientific problem solving. Although we want you to encourage your child in this inventive effort, we ask you not to become overly involved in your child's project. Your support and cooperation in this are greatly appreciated.

We will continue to update you as the program progresses.

Sincerely,

Ms. Garcia