



Courtesy Photo

Fifth- and sixth-graders from the Teton Valley Community School of Teton Science Schools competed in the Mars Rover program in Twin Falls as part of the Idaho Teaching Engineering to Children program

Community school fares well at Mars Rover competition

After four months of hard work, the Teton Valley Community School fifth-sixth grade class hopped on the bus to Twin Falls to compete in the Idaho Teaching Engineering to Children (TECH) Mars Rover competition last weekend.

The class was armed with their motorized Lego models, binders full of detailed documentation, and posters showing the process. The whirlwind weekend was a big success for TVCS students, with one team, the "Martians out of Orbit," placing fourth overall and winning the Lightest Rover competition, and the second team, the "Martians who say 'Nee,'" coming in eighth out of 17 teams.

What really wowed the judges was the students' ability to communicate about their research and construction process through oral presentations.

"The composure and articulate presentations from the TVCS students elicited several comments from the judges who were impressed with the maturity of both teams," said lead teacher Natasha

Peterson.

This compliment speaks to the TVCS' integrated, project based curriculum which focuses on effective written and oral communication, in addition to the high level science, technology, engineering, and math necessary for this project.

Over the course of four months, students in Peterson's class learned about building with gears and axels, making the rovers move with pneumatics and motors, and putting together detailed multimedia presentations of the whole process.

All 92 students attending TVCS benefited from the Mars Rover Competition as the fifth and sixth graders enthusiastically shared their work with each of the younger classes.

To learn more about the Mars Rover competition or how project-based learning is implemented at TVCS, contact Laurel Loveland, head of school at (208) 787-0445.