Clark College hosts 180 participants in five-event contest

The Columbian

Elementary school students spent Saturday flying paper airplanes, bouncing balls of gum and dropping raw eggs encased in protective baskets to demonstrate their scientific knowhow at the Science Olympiad Invitational Tournament.

About 180 students, mostly third- through fifth-graders, participated in the tournament at Clark College, both as schoolwide teams and as smaller groups of a few students.

The competitions and their winners included:

- Aerodynamics: Build two paper airplanes to be flown a distance of at least five meters, landing on a predetermined target. 1st: Union Ridge Elementary School (Ridgefield); 2nd: Dorothy M. Fox Elementary School, Black (Camas); 3rd: Maple Grove Primary School, Green (Battle Ground). The top small group was Maple Grove, Yellow.

- Guns: Design and test a ball of gum (Elmer’s glue, liquid starch and salt) that will bounce a certain height. 1st: Captain Strong Elementary School (Battle Ground); 2nd: Helen Baller Elementary School (Camas); 3rd: Hockinson Heights Intermediate School. The top small group was J.D. Zellerbach Elementary School, Black (Camas).

- Metric Mastery: Estimate and measure mass, volume, distance, time and temperature using metric units. 1st: Hockinson Intermediate; 2nd: Maple Grove, Green; 3rd: Captain Strong. The top small group was Hockinson Heights Intermediate.

- Mystery Architecture: Prove your ability to think on your feet by taking a bag of materials and building a freestanding tower as high as possible that supports a tennis ball at its top. 1st: Helen Baller; 2nd: Lacamas Heights Elementary School (Camas); 3rd: Captain Strong. The top small group was Lacamas Heights, Yellow.

- Straw Egg Drop: Make a device of straws and masking tape to hold a large, raw egg. The device containing the egg was dropped from a fixed height to a target. Devices whose eggs were unbroken and closest to the target scored the highest. 1st: Union Ridge; 2nd: J.D. Zellerbach, White; 3rd: Junior CAM (a home-school group from the Ridgefield area). The top small group was Hockinson.