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AVIATION PROJECT REPORT

From: 107th Street STEM Magnet School
Los Angeles Unified School District

The aviation project that I conducted with my 22 fourth graders was a huge success and truly one of their most memorable learning experiences of the year. When the pilot “Mossy” came to visit our class to deliver the grant award my students were immediately excited to learn more about aviation. My students were able to research, design, and build gliders thanks to the generous award from SAFE. Building the gliders enabled them to work collaboratively while learning more about how things fly.

A secondary benefit of this aviation project was realizing the significance of perseverance and tenacity. A few of my students struggled with building the gliders, but they worked with determination and dedication. After we flew the gliders one of those students said, “I’m so glad I didn’t give up on this.” This opened the door for a conversation about the rewards of striving to reach goals even when the task is difficult.

After we built the gliders together I had students who chose to continue creating more gliders on their own using alternative materials to compare and contrast the success of the gliders we built in class with the ones they built at home. It was amazing to see students go the extra mile to continue researching flight and aviation outside of school. My students are still working to improve their designs and several have dreams of one day becoming a pilot. In fact one of my female students said she didn’t know women were allowed to fly. Without this project there is no telling how long she would have continued to live with that misconception.

In sum, I believe this project will have a lasting impression on my students. It was a meaningful and engaging learning experience for them. Their horizons were broadened and this tremendously helped to support my teaching principle that the sky’s the limit.

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