

SCHOOL LIFE

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EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

Around the world

Students at **Twinbrook Elementary School** are learning a little more about the world, its culture and geography, thanks to the school's Geo Club organized by **Mia Lee**, a senior at **Thomas S. Wootton High School** in **Rockville**.

Mia, who is part Korean and part Ecuadorian, said she started the club, which is sponsored by the school's PTA, after a recent trip to Ecuador.

— She said she hopes the club will encourage the students' curiosity, knowledge and acceptance of other cultures and perspectives.

“The geography we are concentrating on is culture based. We concentrate on the connections between the students and the continents they are studying,” Mia said.

At the Jan. 30 meeting, the 13 fourth- and fifth-grade students in the club reviewed map skills they learned at an earlier meeting then broke into groups to read about Africa and discuss its people, animals and countries.

“I like when they read the stories. It teaches a lesson,” fourth-grader **Camille Chavis**, 9, said.

Neill Seminario, 10, a fifth-grader, joined the club when it started last year and is back to learn more. He said he hopes to travel when he gets older, especially to Russia and to Asia and Europe.

He said he has learned a lot about maps.

The Geo Club meets for one hour after school each Monday. There is no cost to the students to join.

“Geography is one of those things that's not covered so [the club] gets more people involved and learning,” said PTA president **Ajeenah Chavez**.

Washington Episcopal earns first in LEGO contest

The **Washington Episcopal School's** robotics team, the “Dragonbots,” won first place in the Presentation Category for their research project at the International First LEGO League statewide competition at **University of Maryland, Baltimore County** on Jan. 28.

“The Dragonbots' research project was to study fish [salmon] spoiling from the grocery store to the dinner table,” robotics club coach **Jason Platt**



PEGGY MCEWAN/THE GAZETTE

Fourth-grader **Camille Chavis**, 9, listens as **Mia Lee**, a senior at **Thomas S. Wootton High School**, **Rockville**, reads an African tale to students at the Geo Club that Mia started at **Twinbrook Elementary School**, **Rockville**. Mia hopes to introduce students to other cultures around the world during the weekly sessions.

said in an email. “The students came up with a solution to identify if the fish had been too warm for too long.”

Their solution featured “Time and Temperature Stickers” that show how long fish packaging has been above a safe temperature Platt said. During the competition the group presented its research project in the form of a skit and fielded questions about the project.

The team was made up 10 students in grades six through eight. They are sixth-graders **David Butturini**, **Georgia Currie**, **Anders Groeschel**, **Oliver Johnson**, **Samantha Liggins**, **Jaymin Ortega**, **Athena Skoufias** and **Tayyaba Tareq**; seventh-graders **John Young** and eighth-grader **Laurence Ruberl**. Seventh-grader **Matthew Jackson** served as student advisor.

The Dragonbots earned a

spot at the state competition, where they competed against 74 teams, after winning second place overall at the qualifier in December.

“The team members truly amazed me with their ability to work together over the course of several months to achieve in a competitive activity, which challenges them to collaborate just like scientists do when conducting research,” Platt said. “I am very proud of our budding scientists!”

For information about the First LEGO League, visit www.firstlegoleague.org/mision/support.

Learn to understand psychological evaluations

For Our Kids, For Ourselves Sunday Lecture Series will host a discussion with Dr. Lisa Lenhart on Understanding Psychological Evaluations and Testing for Learning Disabilities from 1:45-3:30 p.m. Sunday at **Ohr Kodesh Congregation**, 8300 Meadowbrook Lane, **Chevy Chase**.

Admission is \$12, \$15 at the door. Reservations are requested. Email **Jaime Selvin** at adhdparentsforum@yahoo.com.

Get fit at Quince Orchard

Don't abandon your fitness goals so soon this year. The **Quince Orchard High School PTSA** is hosting its annual Health & Fitness fair from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Feb. 21 at the school, 15800 Quince Orchard Road, **Gaithersburg**.

The free event will include zumba, dance and golf demonstrations, vision screenings and hearing and blood pressure checks.

After the fair, the PTSA's monthly meeting starts at 7 p.m. The topic for the meeting is “Addictions” and will feature a presentation by **Robert Roth** from **Montgomery General Hospital** and **Donald Davis** from the Department of Health and Human Services, **Outpatient Addiction Services**.

*Education Notebook accepts news items and photographs about events, people and good news at your school. Please send us story ideas at least a week in advance of the event. Contact **Peggy McEwan** at pmcewan@gazette.net, fax at 301-670-7183 or 9030 Comprint Court, Gaithersburg, MD, 20877.*