



Forging relationships that inspire academic and personal growth since 1964

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Science Enrichment Programs with partners Vecna and MIT are a great success for Tutoring Plus and Cambridge students.

Through partnerships with Vecna, Inc and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tutoring Plus of Cambridge, Inc. has provided exciting opportunities to middle school students interested in science outside of the classroom. In the spring 2008, Area 4 students in the 7th and 8th grade had the opportunity to work with engineers from a local firm, Vecna, Inc. and an MIT graduate student on two different science projects.

Students in the Future Engineers program enhanced their problem solving skills by building a catapult with help from professional engineers from Vecna, Inc. The volunteers from Vecna challenged students in the "Air Mail" program on the physics and probability behind how catapults work. The students learned how to formulate hypotheses about how to deliver packages of different weights to a range of distances and heights. Future Engineers in 2008 was a great success and plans for 2009 are already underway.

The Science Explorers program, facilitated by MIT students, saw its highest registration in 4 years. An MIT graduate student assisted the Cambridge students in developing and testing products for a heat shield to be used during re-entry from space. This program included a field trip to testing lab at MIT! Science Explorers serves students in grades 4th – 6th. This program introduces students to the fundamentals in general science (chemistry, biology, physics, earth science) through hands-on experiments. Science Explorers uses common materials to reinforce the notion that science is easily accessible and simple to understand. The program runs for once a week for six weeks every spring. This year's success in both programs will help to expand and improve the program for the spring of 2009.

For the past 40 years, Tutoring Plus has been forging relationships between volunteers and students to inspire academic and personal growth. Focusing on the Area 4 neighborhood of Cambridge, Tutoring Plus provides free services to families, a structured environment for volunteers, and a highly personalized approach to working with students that produces results for all involved.

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