Miller wins top honors at science fair

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

TRINITY — Trinity Elementary School student Adam Miller was all smiles after receiving top honors in the school science fair for his project on melting ice. Students who took part in the March 10 science fair learned about scientific methods as they chose their own projects, made a hypothesis, conducted experiments and assembled presentations documenting their results.

Parents, grandparents and other guests flocked to the school auditorium to visit stations where participants rewarded visitors to their station with a short presentation on their projects.

Standing proudly beside his lemon-powered clock, Ryan Anderson explained how a fruit managed to help generate electricity.

“It’s because the copper penny has a chemical reaction,” he said, pointing to the display on a voltmeter on the table behind him.

“I thought that sugar would increase the strength of gelatin more than salt or citric acid, so I used a scale to check the results,” said Amanda Miller.

She refrigerated gelatin for four days before weighing samples on a kitchen scale to check the results. The project earned her a second-place ribbon.

Jamie Miller, the parent of both first-place and second-place winners, was pleased by how motivated the students were and how much they learned.

“They researched a subject and once they got into it, they were more interested than we thought,” he said. “They were excited to do the finished product.

As she opened the awards ceremony, Principal Kimberly Bowie extended thanks to staff members who worked behind the scenes to make the science fair possible.

SEE MILLER/PAGE 7
Left: Trinity Elementary School held its first science fair last week. Students selected their own projects, formed hypotheses, conducted experiments, and explained the results. Pictured here, Chance Gregor answers questions from visitors regarding his experiment on food coloring and different types of milk. Right: horizon:ia conducted research to discover how ingredients transform from a liquid to a semi-solid in various slime recipes. The blue slime, left, is starburst while the purple slime, right, contains borax.

Left: Ryan Anderson impressed judges by generating enough electrical energy to power a clock. Middle: The science projects helped students to stretch their imaginations in selecting experiments. This budding scientist noted that farmers and gardeners usually water their crops, but wondered if any other liquids were effective. This experiment tested out the hypothesis using scientific methods. Right: Deana Markow didn't depend on her own taste buds to conduct her experiment using different types of chewing gum. He assembled a panel of experts who made their choice using independent scientific methods.

Left: Chase Westmorland became fascinated with how fingerprint patterns are inherited. After visiting his station made with a stamp pad, he used a magnifying glass to determine whether they fit the description of body hair, teeth or human teeth. Right: How long do you have to boil an egg to get it to bounce? In Keila Vázquez' hypothesis, she guessed six minutes, but the result was 12 minutes.

**MILLER**

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

"Without the vision and hard work of our science teacher Gina Hicks, art teacher Amanda Belts and teacher's assistant Shauna Pina, today wouldn't be as wonderful as it has been," she said.

Students who visited the science fair earlier decided winners by voting for their favorites.

Cleveland Armentrout received a third-place award. Honorable mention went to Cecily Johnson, Bo Gibbons and Griffin Stanley.

In addition to his blue ribbon, first-place winner Adam Miller received a gift certificate for $25 to spend at the downtown market.

"Those students have worked so hard on their experiments and the presentation boards," said Brown. "Every one is a winner in my eyes."

Staff writer: Debbie Maclean may be reached at dmaclean@newstimes.com or 860-349-3375.