



# GIRLS' TALK

Calgary  
Girls' School

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## Voices of Our Girls

*A few of the grade eight students were fortunate to attend the 2008 TECHhead Challenge at the Telus World of Science on March 1. This is an annual event that challenges students to discover and understand the exciting world of electronics by creating new technology from old "stuff". Students spent 90 minutes with a technology expert exploring a variety of electronic devices, such as VCRs, DVD players, telephones, answering machines and stereo speakers. They learned about parallel and series circuits, switches and resistors. They used simple tools like wire strippers, wire cutters, pliers, screwdrivers and hammers in the process. The two teams of four girls utilized these tools to dismantle and salvage parts of the electronic devices in preparation for the "challenge" to follow. They salvaged parts such as lights, fans, wires and small motors. Once the "challenge" was revealed, the girls had one hour to design and build a working piece of technology to solve a fictional scenario based on the use of landfill gas as a fuel to generate electricity. The challenge was for each team to build an enclosed simple machine that would set off an alarm (either light, noise or both) in response to unusually high levels of landfill gas (methane).*

*The two teams used problem-solving and teamwork skills, along with incredible creativity, to work on this challenge. One of our teams placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall out of the total 20 teams, while the other team was awarded with the Best Overall Presentation merit award. It was a wonderful day of technology exploration and the girls truly enjoyed themselves.*



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What's New



“This was a new type of competition I decided to try. I learned the skills to improvise with words and materials. The highlight of the day was smashing the speakers and DVD player, while playing around and taking apart the electronics with my friends. It was a lot of fun.”

Lauren

“I signed up for this event because it looked like fun. I enjoyed smashing things and keeping tidy. I brought cleaning skills and knowledge to the task. The best part of the day was EVERYTHING!”

Samantha



“I signed up for this event because I love science and it sounded like fun. I brought my skills of electronics and ideas of creation. The highlight of the day was taking all of the stuff apart. I enjoyed this because it was cool to see the innards of the electronics.”

Rachel

“I signed up for this event because I was interested in science and I love to build stuff. I also signed up because when I heard we have to present to the panel of judges, I thought it would probably help me for school presentations. The thing I enjoyed the most was when we got to smash things to see what was inside of them, like gears, sprockets and all that stuff. My skill was electric connecting when I had to connect the light bulb to the switch and battery.”

Sara

“I knew this would be fun because 1. I love science and 2. I was with people I liked and could work with. I think the highlight of the day had to be when we took the lid off our machine and I saw the big wad of tape holding things together. All I could do was laugh. This will definitely be something I will always remember and I would LOVE to do it next year when I know more about light and electricity.”

Kimberly

“I thought it would be a fun, challenging experience. I liked working on the challenge, looking at exhibits and presenting. I really enjoyed the whole event and want to go again next year in grade nine.”

Brianna



## MESSAGE FROM CGS STAFF

As you read this newsletter, families will be preparing for a well-deserved Spring break. The learning term from January through March has always provided an opportunity for intense, focused learning time for teachers and students to engage in deep inquiry. This term has proved no exception to this rule. The overnight field study trips have begun to occur and, within this context, parents and girls will experience another unique aspect of CGS: we continue to be committed to girls' learning not only within the four walls of the school, but in the community as well. The planning and work that is put into ensuring that these trips are safe and significant extensions of the regular curriculum guarantee a wonderful experience. We owe a debt of thanks to teachers for their efforts to make these trips happen. If your daughter's overnight field study has not yet occurred, we encourage you to consider volunteering your time to participate. We congratulate students and teachers on their hard work and, in all respects, attention to "personal best".

In discussion, it has come to my attention that some families are not clear about the school's plans regarding the addition of Grades 1-3. The Calgary Girls' School has recently been granted permission to offer these grades, **but will not be adding these grades until it is possible to access more space. The portables that have been requested for Bel-Aire are meant to provide one more class of Grade 4 students as well as break out space for the school.** We are working diligently with the Department of Education in respect of our need for space, but, other than the Bel-Aire portables, will not be requesting additional space for September 2008.

Enrolment interviews are proceeding well, and Ms. Gibson reports that while there are a number of spaces available in Grade 4, all other grades are virtually full. Our last Information Session occurred March 15 and the testing will be April 5. Following this, we will be filling individual spots in the grades.

We wish each of you a relaxing Spring Break, with the hopes that you will return to school energized and excited for the last term's challenges.

CGS Staff

*Congratulations to Keeley G. in Grade 6. Keeley is the winner of last month's newsletter tear-off. A book will be donated to the school library in her name.*