

TRITT TIGER TALK

Tritt Tiger Talk provides a glimpse into part of your child's experience at Tritt. Click [here](#) to learn more about the TTF.

Science Fair Extraordinaire!



Do dogs have a paw preference? Do plants know math? Is the five-second rule real?

Just ask a Tritt fifth-grader - thanks to self-discovery, research, and a whole lotta learning during the Tritt Science Fair. Read on to learn more from Tritt Science Lab Instructor, Mr. Joey Giunta.

Can you tell us about the Science Fair? What is the process?

Tritt fifth-grade students began working on their Science projects during the second quarter of 2019. After using my [blog](http://www.trittsciencelab.org/blog/?tag=Science+Fair) (<http://www.trittsciencelab.org/blog/?tag=Science+Fair>) to discuss all of the requirements and view past projects, we spent one week **writing research questions**, another week **identifying variables**, and another week **forming a hypothesis**. We spent the following month researching and brainstorming in the Science Lab, and concurrently examining aspects of graphic design and Excel charts and graphs during Technology Lab. The experiment design, execution, and evaluation all happens at home.

What are the benefits of the Science Fair?

Many! Today's youth are exposed to so much information and able to access it readily. They can look up answers to most questions fairly quickly. My goal is for students to think *critically* about a topic. I want them to conduct background research from multiple sources and to properly credit those sources. I want students to ask questions where there are no obvious answers - questions that require in-depth investigation and analysis.

You believe you're building 'communicators,' not just 'scientists.' Tell us more.

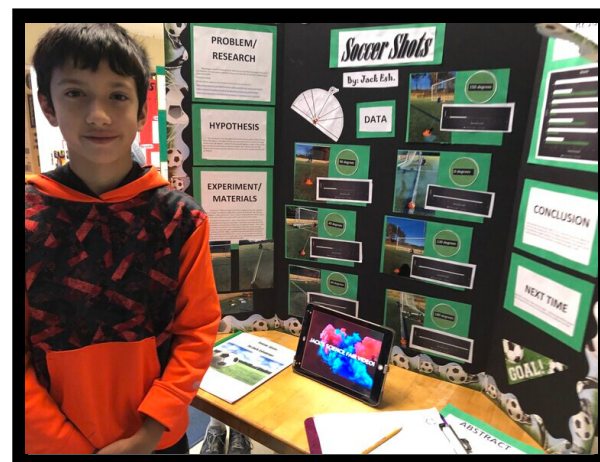
Science should not be left in the cross-hairs. Real 'science' should be an opinion-free zone that seeks the truth. The future needs effective communicators, and I hope we have more of them as a result of the Science Fair discoveries.

What are the greatest student takeaways? What do they enjoy most?

Students seem to enjoy choosing a topic on their own, learning about that topic, and sharing their discoveries with others. Gone are the days of everyone making the same model volcano. Topics run the gamut from sports to art to biology to social sciences to chemistry, engineering, astronomy and food sciences; our students' interests are so diverse. When they embrace the opportunity, and most of them do, they come away not only learning more about their topic, but also teaching so many others.

2019
SCIENCE FAIR
WINNER

**JACK
ESHELMAN!**



From the Judges' Quarters



Science Fair judges are selected annually by Mr. Giunta, and are professionals with a strong science background working in and around Cobb County. To ensure impartial evaluation of students' work, judges may not have any affiliation to any Tritt students. This year's judges included professionals from the Chattahoochee Nature Center, Cobb County Water, Cobb County Parks, WestRock Recycling, Project Lead The Way, the Society of Women Engineers, and Cobb County School District. Meet two of this year's judges below.

How do the judges pick an overall winner?

Each of the fifth-grade classes had one overall top winner. The top four or five projects from each class (as determined by Mr. Giunta, the students' teachers and a third staff person) moved on to the final round. There, the judges read each student's material and interviewed the students for up to ten minutes. Judges want to find out how much the student understands the work he/she has done. Judges scores are averaged to rank the final placement. As a precaution for a project being graded too harshly or lightly, judges work individually and no two projects are judged by the same pair of people.

For a list of fifth-grade winners, click [here](http://www.trittsciencelab.org/blog). (<http://www.trittsciencelab.org/blog>)

Meredith Campbell

**Senior Director of Partnerships,
Project Lead The Way**

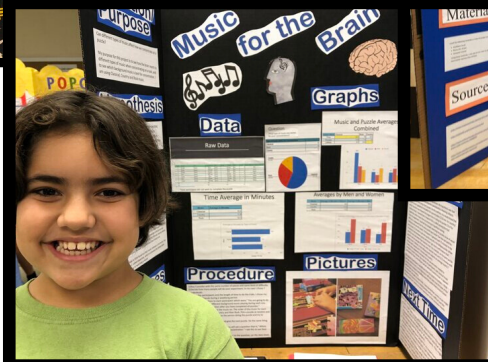
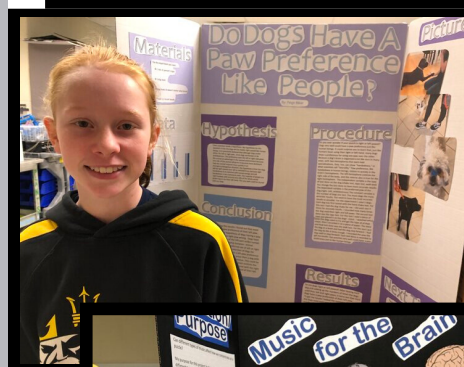
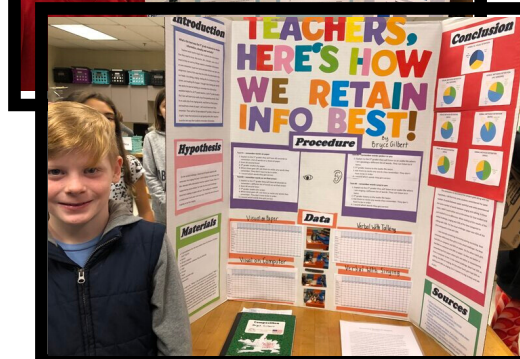


"Tritt fifth-graders did an incredible job with their Science Fair projects. The wide range of subject matter showed their creativity; the depth and scope of their investigations reflected their understanding of concept and dedication to their projects; their ability to communicate the scientific process clearly showed they understood exactly what they were doing. I was very impressed by their ability to verbally tell me about their projects, as well. Most importantly, they each told me they had fun doing the projects. **If we can get kids to enjoy learning, we have set them up for success.** By including skills like perseverance and effective communication, they are getting prepared for life. These student are off to a great start, and I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with them. Well done!" - Meredith Campbell

DID YOU KNOW?

Your donations to the Tritt Tiger Foundation fund our Science Teacher, Mr. Giunta, and the Science Lab entirely! **THANK YOU for donating!**

CONGRATS, SCIENCE FAIR TOP SCORERS!



Alicia Evans

**Senior Director of Community Programs,
Chattahoochee Nature Center**



"Tritt Science Fair is always a treat to attend. The students have very creative work that not only highlights their understanding of the scientific process, but also incorporates their individual personalities, and they do a wonderful job sharing what they learn as their project is judged. Mr. Giunta takes great care in coordinating with his judges and makes us feel very welcomed. I hope students are able to grow their interest in STEM learning after taking part in the Science Fair."
- Alicia Evans



Pictured top to bottom:
Jack Chaloupek, Bryce Gilbert,
Page Riker, Devon Parthasarathy, Eliana Rodriguez

The TTF strives to invest your tax-deductible donations in ways that impact EVERY Tritt student's STEAM education.

www.trittfoundation.com