

Hands-on Engineering Program Transforms Westbury Christian Campus into Innovation Hot Spot

By Justin Lacey

To most students, digital music players are a must-have entertainment device to be purchased. Those enrolled in the BlueStamp Engineering program, however, do not have to save up to buy a digital music player; they can make one instead.

BlueStamp Engineering is a six-week summer program designed to instill real-world technical proficiency in passionate, hardworking high school students with an interest in technology. To help the students understand what it is like to be an entrepreneurial engineer, each works individually to prepare design documentation, build a working prototype from scratch and post to the program website a series of videos explaining the design.

For the second consecutive year, the science lab on the campus of Westbury Christian School served as the Houston home of the program, which was also offered in New York and San Francisco in 2013.

“WCS shares our ambition to be a frontrunner in championing and improving hands-on technology education that gets students excited,” said Robin Mansukhani, CEO of Houston-based Alzeca Biosciences who co-founded BlueStamp Engineering with Dave

Young, a Denver-based engineering consultant. “Our Houston students are humble and hard-working. Few of them come in with any previous experience, but their achievements, regardless of their background, are truly inspiring.”

At the conclusion of the program in late July, this year’s group of ambitious, technologically minded student engineers, representing public, charter and private schools from across the city, showcased for their family and friends their work and the lessons learned in the process of designing and building projects they selected to reflect their unique interests.

As another summer draws to a close in Houston, the 2013 class of BlueStamp Engineering students have the distinct satisfaction of entertaining themselves with “toys” of their own making, including a solar-powered music player unlike any offered in stores.



Students in the BlueStamp Engineering program at Westbury Christian School work on engineering their solar-powered music players.

Correction

In a story last week about the Bellaire Little League’s successful fundraising for the park at Horn Elementary School, two sponsors were inadvertently left out. Fox Field was named for donors Linda and Mike Fox and Patti and Jim Fox.

Houston Urban

Gardeners August Events

HUG’s Seed Swap will be held on Monday, Aug. 12, from 5:45 - 6:30 p.m. at a new location: Houston’s Multi-Service Center at 1475 W. Gray. Bring cool weather seeds or just bring yourself. Free.

The program that night will be Diana Liga on “What to Plant and Do Now.” Visit www.houstonurbangardeners.org for more information.

On Monday, Aug 26, at 6:30 p.m., HUG Urban Farmers/Houston Urban Farm Belt Coalition will meet at Houston’s Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray.s

E-Mail your news and photos to: MyNews@Village-Southwest-News.com

Shop & Save for

Back to School

Tax Free Weekend

August 9-11

<p>Apparel & Accessories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al's Formal Wear Argenta Sterling Silver Carter's (Opening Soon) Charming Charlie's Chico's Claire's Dress Barn/Dress Barn Woman Express JC Penney Jos. A. Bank Clothiers Justice for Girls Lane Bryant - Cacique Marshalls Meyerland Jewelers Motherhood Maternity Old Navy Palais Royal Ross Dress for Less Stein Mart Talbots Outlet Store The Children's Place <p>Shoes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Renee Shoes & More Rack Room Shoes 	<p>Eateries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beck's Prime Berripop Yogurt Café Express Chick-fil-A Escalante's Mexican Grille Firehouse Subs James Coney Island La Madeleine French Bakery & Café Sushi Miyuki Japanese Restaurant Saltgrass Steakhouse Smoothie King Starbucks Coffee <p>Information & Store Hours</p> <p>Management Office (713) 664-1166</p> <p>MEYERLAND P · L · A · Z · A</p>	<p>General Merchandise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office Max Target <p>Home Furnishings & Decor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bed, Bath & Beyond Kirkland's Pier 1 Imports <p>Electronics & Entertainment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AT&T Wireless Best Buy <p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank of America (ATM) Carlson Wagonlit Travel Compass Bank (ATM) Eye Trends The Joint Kelsey-Seybold Clinic Texas State Optical <p>Health, Beauty & Fitness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24-Hour Fitness Sport Bath & Body Works Bikram Yoga European Wax Center GNC (General Nutrition Center) Massage Envy Sephora @ JC Penney Uptons Nail & Spa
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Conveniently located at Loop 610 South and Beechnut

Visit our web page at www.meyerlandplaza.com