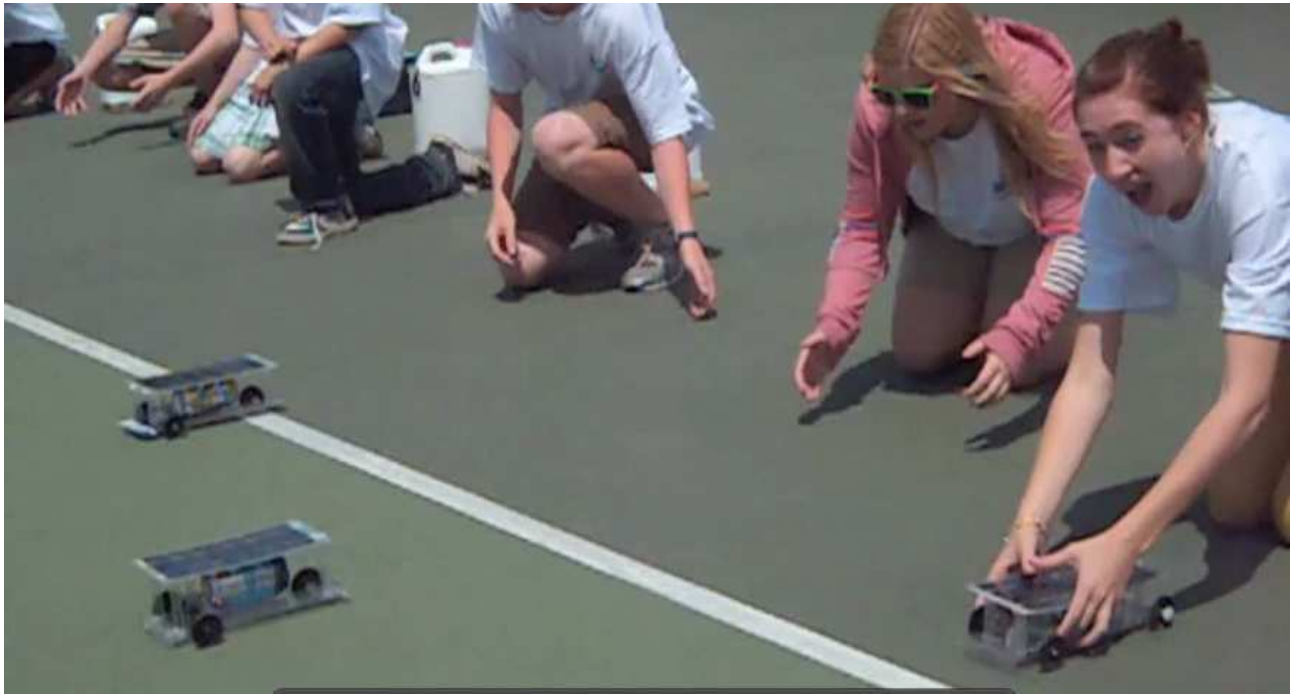




CROSSROADS ACADEMY
SCIENTIA VIRTUSQUE



CROSSROADS ACADEMY SWEEPS 2011 UPPER VALLEY SOLAR SPRINT RACES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EIGHTH GRADERS TOOK FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD PLACES IN RACE COMPETITION
AND FIRST AND SECOND PLACES IN CRAFTSMANSHIP COMPETITION**

LEBANON, NH—On May 25, 2011, the Crossroads Academy eighth graders participated in the 2011 Upper Valley Junior Solar Sprint Competition at the Carter-Witherell Center in Lebanon, NH. Organized by students at the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College, this annual competition involves Upper Valley middle school students who design, build, and race model cars that are powered solely by the sun.

Eight teams of two students each participated in each heat of the competition; a total of about 65 teams raced a total of 65 cars on a 20-meter track. Each car had to win a minimum of five races to win. To be eliminated from the contest, each team had to lose twice in a "double elimination" format. Every car entered was required to use a standard solar panel and electric motor and carry an empty soda can as a payload.

The Crossroads teams were sponsored by the Blue Sky Group of restaurants. Their participation in the contest began with its engineering club deciding on a car design. Then an "engineering production line" of all Crossroads eighth graders labored to create the parts and mount the wheels and gears. Ultimately, all the students worked collaboratively to build all the cars. Indeed, as

one eighth grader declared, " Although my team didn't officially come in first place, I feel as though I was one of the winners since we *all* worked on the winning cars."

Crossroads science teacher Peter Faletra, who oversaw the students participation in the Solar Sprint competition, says, "The students overcame many engineering challenges while building the cars, such as testing the solar panels for maximum input. Another kind of challenge they faced involved concentration; the students who released and caught the cars at either end of the race had to intensely focus on the technicalities of doing so in the most effective ways."

Ultimately, the Crossroads eighth graders won in the racing and craftsmanship categories of the competition, the former of which came down to a photo finish. The top four cars were within one-tenth of a second of each other, and the next three were within two-tenths of a second of each other. The first place winning team from Crossroads finished in six seconds, with the world record being just four-tenths of a second faster. Five Crossroads teams that include a total of ten students (the top six who won in the racing category of the competition and the top four who won in the craftsmanship category) will go on to compete in the final Northeast Junior Solar Sprint Championship on June 12 in Springfield, MA.

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