



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MEDIA ALERT** – Wednesday, March 29  
**Fargo Public School District #1**

## **EXPLORER ACADEMY HOSTING PINEWOOD DERBY**

The green flag is waving and Explorer Academy students are racing toward the starting gate of the school's first Pinewood Derby.

**WHAT:** Explorer Academy Pinewood Derby  
**WHEN:** **Friday, March 31** from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
**WHERE:** 1780 17<sup>th</sup> Street South, Fargo  
**CONTACT:** **Dr. Justin Lien**, Explorer Academy principal, [lienj@fargo.k12.nd.us](mailto:lienj@fargo.k12.nd.us) or 701.446.4104 for more information.

Students at Explorer Academy have learned valuable life and academic lessons while constructing their Pinewood Derby cars and are ready to hit the track for the races on Friday from 4-6 p.m.

The Pinewood Derby involves crafting racecars out of a block of wood and racing them down a wooden track. Explorer Academy students learned a lesson every step of the way while creating their cars.

They began with a lesson on setting goals and creating a plan to achieve those goals. The students researched plans for how to build the car of their imaginations and made key decisions on whether to prioritize speed or style. This experience will help the students learn to achieve their academic and behavioral goals.

While using tools to shape and mold their cars, the students learned lessons in consequences of their actions, influencing vs. being influenced, and responding to feedback. An important lesson is that you can't uncut a block of wood, you have to live with the consequences of every cut. And sometimes putting too much pressure on a situation can cause it to get harder, much like when wood binds up and screeches if you try to push it too hard through a saw. The solution is to reset and start over, just like in life when a situation gets hard and frustrating, you can take a breath, calm down, and try again.

When sanding their cars, the students learned that different grits of sandpaper wear away at a piece of wood just like certain words and actions can wear away at a relationship. Once you sand the wood, the car has changed and can't be returned to its previous state, just like some actions can't be undone and they change relationships forever.

While painting, the students learned about inspiration and that they must set appropriate expectations and overcome the fear of failure. It is good to have inspiration and to have an idea

for how something will turn out, but you can't be too discouraged if the outcome doesn't match your expectations. They also learned to focus on the big picture before starting in on the small details. It's easier to paint in layers and big areas than the intricate items.

This week, they finally got to put their cars to the test in trial run thanks to a track loaned to the school by the Boys Scouts of America. While completing trial runs, the students learned that sometimes you need to try things out in a low-pressure situation and adjust before you are ready for the real thing.

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