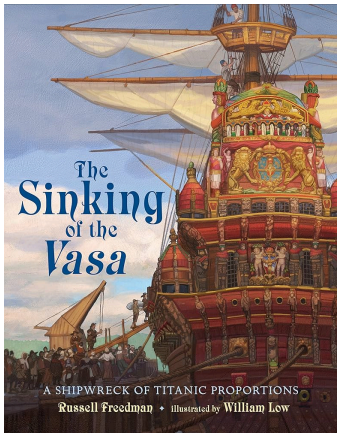
Scholar Spotlight

October



PROCESS



All students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade GATE classes focused on the engineering and design process throughout the month of October. Their goal was to build a boat that could float, carry cargo and move through wind power. Students were inspired by a real life event- the wreck of the Swedish warship *Vasa* that sank almost immediately after its maiden voyage. Students listened to the book *The Sinking of the Vasa* by Russell Freedman and discussed the major design flaws which caused the massive failure.

Students were then asked to form collaborative groups to design a cardboard boat. Teamwork,

problem solving and testing were all part of the engineering process for this STEM activity. After many tests and design changes, many students made predictions prior to the launching of the boats.

Friday, October 17, students were able to test their boats in a large pool and choose various sized weights for cargo. Electric fans placed behind the boat's sails allowed them to move forward.

Many students were overjoyed by their success. They mentioned how fun it was, and most importantly, they learned from it.



