

Elizabeth Damsel, Jackson Elementary School, Hillsborough County



"I have used Times articles to address topics such as weather, natural disasters, space, energy and biology. This provides students with real-world applications to the science content they are learning in class."

Elizabeth was chosen as a 2015 Honorable Mention for using the *Tampa Bay Times* to provide students with enrichment activities beyond the general curriculum.

Each week she chooses an article related to an elementary science standard. She writes a short summary of the article and tapes it, along with the cut-out article, to the window of her classroom door. Below the window, she places a large piece of blank paper with a question written across the top. The open-ended question relates to the content of the article and also addressed a NGSSS standard for Science. A marker dangling from a string is also taped to the door.

Elizabeth reports that hundreds of kids from across the school read and answer her questions and become curious about the answers. Students are excited when a new question is put up, and they want to be amongst the first to write down their answer. Topics have included weather, natural disasters, space, energy, renewable energy

resources and animal communication. Students as young as ELLP could think of an answer to many of the questions and, with their teacher's help, write their response on the paper.

This activity keeps the students up-to-date with scientific happenings in the world, motivates them to learn more about current events and provides them with real-world applications to the science content they are learning in school.



