

Contraptions!

AVAILABLE FROM NOVEMBER 2013 A WORKSHOP CONCEPT FOR GRADE 2 - 6

Wow! What a great performance!
The workshops were challenging and engaging and encouraged the students to think statically, creatively and work cooperatively in teams.
Brendan Taylor, Principal Kerang Primary School



"Very smart and it made me realise that physics is fun"
Student Grade 6, Mildura

The Wacky Lolly Shooting Machine

The idea behind the project is a performance/workshop concept, that is tailored to schools, but can also be offered to the general audience. It caters workshop spots to up to 24 students per session, with the possibility of up to five workshops per day.



Science, fun and construction will go hand in hand: in 50 minutes, the participants get introduced to the world of chain- reactions and build a room sized domino-like mechanism out of recycled materials.

After some brief and entertaining introduction into the physics behind contraptions, (concepts like gravity, simple machines, chain- reactions, stored energy, etc will be examined), the whole group is divided into teams. Each team is responsible for one element of the whole mechanism. Equipped with a task sheet, the participants start transforming a pile of apparent random stuff into a working component of the whole machine. Once all assembled and connected, the kids learn to preset, eliminate mistakes and off we go: once triggered there is no stopping (hopefully) till the big

final surprise: the wacky lolly shooting machine!

"The workshops were fantastic. They allowed for teacher assessment on students ability to work in groups, listen, be creative and resilient, cooperate, problem solve etc. The topic, task and materials were very age appropriate and all students were fully engaged the whole time."
Loretta Thompson, Teacher, Sacred Heart Primary School Mildura

A workshop ideal for school classes of up to 24 students. Creativity, problem resolving, communication, cooperation and logical thinking are promoted, lots of fun and a feeling of achievement is provided. Plus a lolly for everybody!

Practicalities (slight adjustments are possible):

- Space: min. 10 x 8m open space.
- Participants' Age: Grade 2 - 6
- Number: max. 24 per workshop
- Min. 1 teacher per 15 students

- Duration per workshop: ~50 min
- Max. number of workshops per day: 5
- Bump-in time: ~ 40 min
- Material needed: 4 tables

"My favourite part was when all of the contraptions were all knocking down at the end"
Student, St. Dominics School, Kerang

