

The Oreo Project



By Nora Muchanic

LUMBERTON, N.J. - September 21, 2007 - Some elementary school kids enjoyed an edible science and math lesson.

They were eating it up in the third grade class at Ashbrook Elementary in Lumberton, where the kids were building towers of Oreo cookies to learn the principles of math and science.

"It's called the Oreo project, which means Our Really Exciting Outstanding online project," said teacher Angela Ponist.

Kids from around the country are taking part in this hands-on lesson that includes estimations, probabilities and averaging numbers. Make that crunching numbers!

"You have to estimate how many cookies you could stack, and then you find out what the real amount is," said Jennifer Gregory.

"You're trying to get them as big as you can, but you have to think how you can stack them really good," said Joey Olejniczak.

Now as the kids will tell you, there's a certain strategy to this. You have to be very careful about the way you stack your Oreos.

"I try to get all straight, not bending," said Emily McKinney.

Brianna Lally was the winner with a whopping 23 Oreos before her stack tumbled. The average for the class was 17.4, which the kids figured out with their calculators. Miss Ponitz has found a delicious way for her students to learn and have fun at the same time.

"Anything to get them excited about learning," she said.

These 8 year olds are clearly hungry for knowledge, or is it just the payoff they want? They snacked on the cookies when the work was over. Well, most everyone, except Dylan Roberts.

"I don't like Oreos, so I wouldn't eat them," he said, but he still digested the lesson.

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