

NEWS RELEASE

September 26, 2008
Mariemont City Schools

Mariemont High School Learn “Impactful” Physics Lesson



To introduce students to the principles of physics, Mariemont High School science instructor Jeff Radloff took his class to new heights -- dropping student projects from 106 feet in the air. One hundred physics students were faced with the challenge of building a structure that would protect a raw egg as it plummeted from the top of a giant fire truck ladder – at a height one third of the Eiffel Tower at Kings Island.

With strict material and size restrictions, the students designed and built a wide variety of protective carriers for their eggs. Popcorn, marshmallows, straws, rubber bands, saw dust, confetti were just a few of the cushions employed.

The students had submitted an explanation of the physics behind their structures and why they believed they would work. After the drop, they would need to hypothesize the reasons behind the survival or demise of their egg.

With the help of members from the Mariemont and Miami Township Fire Departments, the students headed to the school parking lot (in a car-free zone) where their projects were put to the ultimate test.

The most successful cushion material was jell-o, and the combination of cushioning with a parachute worked best to achieve egg survival. In all, 54% of the eggs survived without a crack from their 100-foot plummet - a testament to the students' physics sense.

Photos:

MHSEgg2-Celebrate: Mariemont High School juniors Drew Schmidt and Mitch Kaesar celebrate the survival of their egg from a drop of 100-plus feet.

MHSEgg3-Helpers: Members of the Mariemont and Miami Township Fire Departments assisted in this “impactful” physics lesson.

MHSEgg4-Parachute: A student-designed egg structure complete with parachute heads safely to the parking lot below.

MHSEgg5-Watch: Mariemont High School physics students hope for the safe landing of another carefully crafted egg structure.

MHSEgg6-EggDemise: Mariemont juniors Alex Goheen and Hank Molski work diligently assembling their protective structure – wig included.

Betsy Porst, Communications Coordinator
6743 Chestnut St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45227
bporst@mariemontschools.org