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## Girls in Science club at local school aims to promote STEM

By EMILY ZANTOW [ezantow@bgdailynews.com](mailto:ezantow@bgdailynews.com) 21 hrs ago

During a lesson on biology, members of the Girls in Science Club at Lost River Elementary School constructed their own version of a human cell last week.

Students at Western Kentucky University created the club this year as a way to get young girls interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“Some people think that girls can’t do science and engineering, so I feel like they made this to prove that girls can do it,” fifth-grade member Zoey Key said.

WKU Chemistry and Philosophy major Lauren McQuaide said that’s exactly why she helped found the club.

“In popular culture, sometimes you don’t necessarily see a lot of women represented in STEM and so I think it’s really important to show that off to young girls so that they know they can do anything they put their mind to,” McQuaide said.

On Friday, the girls discussed which birth traits they have that are dominant or recessive, and crafted a replica of a human cell using materials including paper plates, beads and glow sticks.

“They’re not just gonna tell you (information) and have you write it down, they let you do a project about it. So you don’t have to be bored learning about it, you can do it (hands-on),” Key said.

Girls in Science has 11 members who meet every week with WKU student volunteers after school Friday afternoons.

“It’s really fun to be able to watch (the girls) get excited because then I do, too,” McQuaide said.

At the next meeting, the girls will focus on mathematics.

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Emily Zantow

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