

## Young builders rock the blocks

Students use Legos and imagination to craft projects, win prizes

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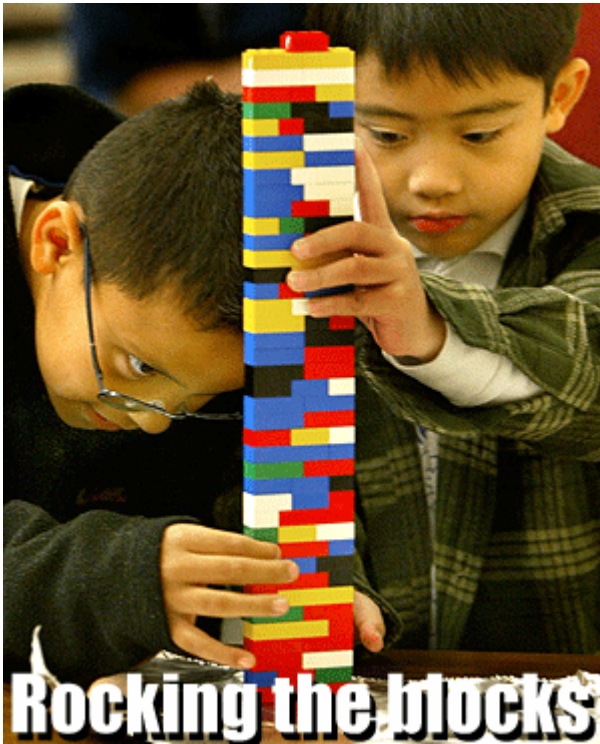
WEST COVINA - One hundred Legos, a piece of aluminum foil, some string and a rock.

That's all 19 boys and girls were equipped with as each took on a challenge presented by the local chapter of National Association of Women in Construction during their annual "Block Party" at Cameron Elementary School.

The mission they accepted: To build something elaborate with those construction materials in under 45 minutes.

The resulting office buildings, houses, hospitals, hotels, shopping mall, day care building and school were among the structures that rose - and fell repeatedly - before completion on Friday.

But at the end of the day, it was a dinosaur museum that took first place.



### Rocking the blocks

[one student], left counts the number of floors to [second student's] office building that he built with Legos. The San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction hosted its annual lego-building contest at Cameron Elementary School in West Covina. (Walt Mancini/Staff Photo)

"It's a museum with a dinosaur sticking his head out," said amateur architect [student name], 7.

As the winner, the second-grader will receive bookstore gift certificates and his creation will be preserved and submitted to the NAWIC.

The second-place winner was [student name], builder of a rock-climbing wall. An army base created by [student name] came in third.

Teacher Cindy Ring typically only uses Legos in class as a rainy day activity. Her class found out the day before the competition that they would be participating.

"I told them to imagine the biggest and prettiest buildings they could think of and then we would build them," Ring said. "It helps build their small motor muscles. It's a hands-on activity."

Seven-year-old [student name's] creation was designed after the Eiffel Tower.

"I built one with my grandpa," she said. "We used sticks and \ squares."

Daphne Masin, a member of the NAWIC San Gabriel Valley chapter, attended the event for the first time on the elementary school level.

"This is just too much fun," said Masin, president of McAloney Enterprises, Inc. in Arcadia. "These kids are so much more vocal and excited."