



For Immediate Release

Businesses Helping Students Flex their Math Muscles

LACEY, WA, April 15, 2016 – Dozens of school kids are flexing their math muscles this week at local consulting firm SCJ Alliance. SCJ is participating in the Thurston County Chamber’s Math for Life event, celebrating national “Math Awareness Month.” The Chamber’s goal is to show kids that math is a life skill, not just an academic subject.

Staff at SCJ Alliance use math every day. The consulting firm specializes in civil engineering, transportation planning and design, environmental and urban planning, landscape architecture and design, and public outreach.

“Math for Life is a natural fit for our team,” said SCJ civil engineer Ross Jarvis. “The problems are challenging, but watching their determination to solve the problem and seeing their smiles when they come to the correct solution makes it all worthwhile for me.



Lucas Richardson, a first-grader at Lakes Elementary School in Lacey, visited SCJ Alliance with his mother for the Math for Life event on Wednesday. Lucas’ father, Captain Adam Richardson in air defense, is currently deployed in Afghanistan.



Siblings Brenden and Brooke Perez, 4th grader and kindergartener at Evergreen Forest Elementary, visited SCJ for the event on Thursday.

Part of the responsibility of the hosting businesses is to give a brief explanation of how math is used in their work.

“The trick is to make it relatable to them,” Ross said. “I like to find something they are interested in and tell a story about how civil engineers would use math when working with something like that.”

Math for Life student participants are given a scavenger hunt map of participating businesses to pick and choose where to visit and answer math questions. Last year, nearly 700 students participated in the Chamber’s event which draws from the Griffin, Olympia, North Thurston, and Tumwater school districts.

“We’ve been busy the entire time,” Ross said. “It’s refreshing to see the number of student visitors increase so much from year to year.”

SCJ Alliance is a nationally-recognized, award-winning company founded in 2006 as Shea Carr Jewell. Celebrating their 10 year anniversary in May, SCJ has grown steadily from three employees in one location, to a dynamic team of nearly 70 employees in five locations.

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