**TRITT NERDY DERBY**

Parents,

Your 4th grader will be participating in Tritt’s 2nd Annual Nerdy Derby competition. The Nerdy Derby is a race with-out rules! Your student will construct a car, which he/she will send down a track in hopes of finishing with the fastest time. Your child will first race against classmates from his/her own class, and classroom winners will then compete against each other in the final.

**How do you make a car?**

Get creative! Use dental floss and plastic cutlery to shave a bar of soap, Find materials from nature or from your recycling bin, build a car body with LEGOs or blocks. Use a vegetable, or even build with sturdy paper! **\*\**The one thing we ask you not to do is buy or use a pre-fab car body.\*\**** The focus should be on your student creatively making something! Your child will be supplied with two axels and 4 wheels. If these provided pieces are not used, please return to Mrs. Dean.

**Can I help my student?**

Sure! But… Remember that this is an opportunity for your child to work on their creativity skills. Encourage your child to come up with their own ideas for materials, research pictures of Nerdy Derby cars others have built, and use the stages of the Engineering Design Process to come up with a plan and, design, create, and test for improvements. Feel free to help your student if power tools are needed, or discuss pros and cons with your child, but ultimately, let your child take the lead on this project.

**Is my student working alone or with a partner?**

While we STRONGLY encourage your child to work with a 4th grade partner, we realize that there may be a few cases where working with another student will present a logistical challenge. Working with a partner helps build communication and collaboration skills, and also makes the competition more fun. Teamwork, the power of two brains, and the fun of working with a buddy only add to the overall excitement and success of the Nerdy Derby. If you/your child feels strongly about working independently, that will be allowed this year.

Select one:

* My child is working with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (fill in partner’s name)
* My child is working independently

**When…Where…Who?**

Our Nerdy Derby competition will take place on March 30th. All cars are due at school on March 28th. Our race will be held under the covered play area, and a schedule of class times and the final race time will be communicated later this month. Parents are welcome to come and watch the race! (Please note this is also a STEM Showcase day for our Kindergarten and First grade students, so we expect a packed house of visitors in the building that day.)

**I acknowledge I am aware of this project and my student’s expected participation**

**Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

\*Please direct questions and concerns to Alexa Dean (Alexa.Dean@cobbk12.org)