**SCIENCE OPPORTUNITIES**

**FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**BEACON AFTERSCHOOL**

**PROGRAMS AT EAST SIDE**

***Robotics***

Beacon partners up with City As interns to run Robotics every Thursday at 4:30.  The students are challenged to build robots from Lego pieces.  They are treated as budding engineers.  They have to be creative but also build a functioning robot.  The instructor takes them through necessary steps until the robot is complete. Then the students get to have some fun racing their bots on an obstacle course!

***Science Seminar***

The Beacon’s Wednesday Afternoon Science Seminar is a unique opportunity for students to participate in authentic and purposeful STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities.  The purpose of Wednesday Afternoon Science Seminar (WASS) is to support the development of self-directed learners in a fun and academically rich environment. In the past, activities have included engineering challenges, construction of a telescope, and presentations at venues like the American Museum of Natural History, and the National Science Teacher Association. The students will decide the kinds of STEM activities they will do.  Occasionally guest scientists will join the group (either in person or via Skype) for an activity and conversation and a field trip has already been scheduled. Other trips are an option that is being pursued. Admission to WASS is based on the desire to have fun, interest in STEM, and the willingness to think “outside of the box.”