

DAY EXCITES WASHINGTON STUDENTS ABOUT SCIENCE

Students of Washington Elementary School were immersed in science when the 7th Annual Science Day was presented on March 3, 2010.

The students had an opportunity to learn about science in the workplace hands-on. The staff at Washington Elementary School supported over 25 local scientists in sharing their knowledge during the school day or during evening sessions.

The event had numerous benefits for the students and adults involved. Science is a subject that some students find intimidating. Science Day is held to help change that idea. The students were given an opportunity to see the science they have been studying in their classrooms come to life in demonstrations, and to see how some simple science concepts are involved in everyday jobs.

The whole day was dedicated to science. There were eighteen local “scientists” (doctor, nurse, veterinarian, entomologist, optometrist, animal husbandry, broadcasting, musicians to name a few) who volunteered their time to bring this opportunity to the students. The students had a chance to see a science assembly and attend five sessions of their choice with the scientists. The scientists prepared hands-on lessons to show the students a segment of their job and how they use science daily to perform those jobs.

Then families were invited to Washington School in the evening for “Science Night.” Parents and students engaged in hands-on science and learned more about the impact of science in our lives. Eight additional presenters, such as a dentist, taxidermist, forensics specialist, and K-9 police dog and handler, were on hand with some who returned from the day presentations to share their knowledge and experience with students. Students dusted for fingerprints, made cheese by mixing bacteria, learned of the healing properties of honey from a bee keeper and more.

The end result: Students are excited about science!

On behalf of the Washington students and staff, we wish to thank the following who helped make this day a huge success:

Dr. Harper Wildern (optometrist), Brian Latty of CPS Food Service (healthy food choices), Marge Longcore (Consumers Power), Lisa Lafferty (energy efficiency), nurse Erin Reed, Derek Sanders (sports medicine), Soldan’s, Darren Snowden (prosthetics), Mr. and Mrs. Art Reist (emergency medicine), Jackie Blanc (naturalist), Dr. Kevin Davis (chiropractor), Lauren Stewart and her students (FFA), Jim Stewart (broadcasting), Dr. Erin Howard (veterinarian), Mr. and Mrs. Ben Tirrell (Tirrell Centennial Farms), Ms. Julie Baglien (and family) and Mrs. Melissa Nott-Schmitz (music teachers), Mrs. Julie Crossman (chemistry teacher), Paul Brentar (CPD K-9 Handler), Dr. Lisa Knowles’ dental assistants, Tiny Tim (Dadante Industries-bee keeper), Detective Lt. David Minzey (forensics), Dewayne Vedder, Roberta Vedder (taxidermist), Mrs. Julie Crossman and students (forensics), Meghan Behnke, and Mrs. Jeri Elliston, Science Day/Night Coordinator.