

News Release

Feb. 9, 2007

Jefferson Elementary Family Science/Multicultural Night

A magic science show, sugar gliders, germs, multicultural displays and more! It was all at Jefferson Elementary School's Family Science/Multicultural Night on Wednesday, Feb. 7. The event was coordinated by Jefferson teachers and PTA and staffed by teachers, PTA members, volunteers, and individuals from community agencies and organizations.



Families could participate in eight different activities and view displays. The PTA sponsored a Make Your Own Trail Mix snack station, which students could visit after washing their hands at Germ Central, a health activity staffed by Kishwaukee Community Hospital, which revealed missed spots in hand washing via black light.

A wall outside the gymnasium was lined with large paintings of prominent African-American people. The students used their own bodies as outlines to create the paintings and did research on each historical figure. These were created by



Andria Mitchell's fifth grade class. Part of the gymnasium was turned into a Science/Inventor Gallery and Literature Exhibition developed by all classrooms and the school library. The other half of the gym was the scene of "The Science of Magic" a show by John Cole, a Jefferson parent.

The Knowledge through Nature exhibit proved quite popular with students. Cindy Warren-James, first grade teacher, filled her room with animals such as guinea pigs, a snake, a gecko, sugar gliders (small marsupials native to Australia, Tasmania and New Guinea) and other animals. Another popular spot was the Soil Sam room sponsored by the DeKalb County Farm Bureau, Ag Literacy Department. Students created soil figures which should sprout "hair" similar to a Chia Pet®. The University of Illinois Extension hosted an activity demonstrating reactions in a solution of milk, dishwashing liquid and food coloring.

It was a fun and informative evening for Jefferson families who braved single-digit temperatures to attend.