

News Releases

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Littlejohn Students Hands-On with Human Body

Some Littlejohn Elementary fifth grade students recently got acquainted with the human body in a way that not everyone gets to experience. On Monday, Nov. 20, Marti Brown's science class got a first-hand look at human internal organs provided by Dr. Daniel Olson, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences and Director of Northern Illinois University's Anatomy Lab. Students examined seven different body structures – a brain, a spinal cord, a stomach, a kidney, a heart, a lung, and a small intestine. A number of the organs were cut open to reveal the inner structure.



Olson explained what each organ was and answered students' questions. The students, wearing gloves, were able to pick up the organs to examine them closely and feel differences in texture and firmness. They did drawings and took notes for lab reports. The students have been studying the human body and how it functions in science class. They studied the respiratory, circulatory, digestive and excretory systems and were able to see exactly what some of the organs look like which perform those functions.

Students were intrigued by the body parts and did not seem squeamish about handling them. They were eager to show visitors and each other different parts of the organs. One student discussed the different feel of heart muscle versus fat with her lab partners. "Hands-on experiences are very powerful," Brown said.