

# Lesson from page A1

defend it."

## Working together

At one of the tables were Rachelle Lalonde, 10, Lisa Matien, 10, Jason Muccioli, 10 and Kevin Sack, 9.

Rachelle, rubbing granules of Powder 1 between her fingers, announced that "the texture is gritty." Soon, all predicted it was sugar. Powder 2 didn't react to drops of iodine, prompting Lisa to comment that "it doesn't do a thing."

By circulating their hands around the powder, bringing fingers up to their noses, the students were able to decide - because of its odor - that Powder 2 was salt.

The first two powders were easy. Detective work would begin in earnest with Powder 3. Rachelle doled out four globs onto the sheet of wax paper.

"Let's see what this really is," said Lisa.

A few minutes later, while working on Powder 4, Rachelle added several drops of water and made a proclamation to the other students at her learning club. "It made pellets."

Kevin chimed in that the powder turned all "bubbly."

"Hey, you guys," noted Rachelle, "this could be a mixture."

Her observation would soon be reworded moot by Fleish, who gave a clue to the entire class.

"The one that's a mixture is No. 7," Fleish said. "But I'm not going to tell you what it is."

Powder 6 triggered much discussion. It had been predicted to be baking powder, but the students were now thinking otherwise after mixing the various liquids with it.

The addition of vinegar caused Powder 6 to fizz and bubble.

**Drilling**

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known until the well is drilled, city officials countered.

"This council will not play this game of Russian roulette," said Councilman Jerry Ellis, who

replied his initial motion to deny the permit to include minimum requirements if an application is resubmitted.

West Bay has gone to court to get its way in the past.

The company reached an out of court settlement with the city of Novi after bringing suit over two wells, including one in a zoned residential area, Gottschalk said.

Novi has two wells, including a production site.

"Again in that issue, we met all the ordinance requirements," he said.

Council members didn't seem pleased by possible litigation.

Ellis, an attorney, made reference to what he called a "thinly veiled threat" in information submitted by the company before Monday's vote. He asked West Bay officials if the \$20 million

in projected revenue, "Damages would be substantially less than that," Ellis said. "That's why I asked the question."

The city ordinance on oil and gas drilling says permits can be denied if there is a public health risk. The council's denial isn't based on science or fact but on information, West Bay officials said.

"I think the Michigan Land Use Institute knows as well as we do, if they have been studying the gas and oil issue as they claim, they know this is not an H2S area," Gottschalk said.

The exploration company officials suggest the city seek an independent firm to evaluate the potential for H2S.

"We'll have experts if necessary," Ellis said. "I think the city ordinance is good."

If West Bay is to resubmit its application to drill, the council asked that it also include:

■ A hydrocarbon development plan to show pipelines, well heads, processing facilities (airfield);

■ Atmospheric study of the effects from the release of hydrogen sulfide;

■ Techniques that will be used to contain H2S during drilling; and

■ Safety analysis of the pipeline used to transport oil to Plymouth Township.

Unlike the Dec. 8 meeting, Meadowbrook Park residents limited their comments before Monday's vote.

"We're here again in full force," said Tom Zlotucha, Woodhill Street resident. "I just wanted to remind you especially, that how you vote today on whether or not to allow gas wells to be drilled within 620 feet of residents' home will be precedent setting."



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

**Thumbs up: Teacher Karen Fleish encourages class participation.**

much more actively than the other powders did. And the students knew that was exactly how baking soda would react.

Also the subject of debate was Powder 7, which the students, of course, now knew was a mixture.

"It has either baking powder or baking soda in it," Kevin said.

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"Because it fizzes."

## Difference of opinion

All of the students at the table agreed that one of the elements was plaster of Paris, because it stuck to the blue spoon. But Lisa thought the second powder was baking powder, whereas her colleagues were certain it was baking soda.

A student from a different learning club, 10-year-old Michelle Berta, also guessed that the mixture was plaster of Paris and baking soda.

"That's because the baking soda would fizz and the plaster of Paris molded whenever you put water on it."

With all seven powders tested and attempts made to identify

them, Fleish and her class next went down the list, talking about what they learned and how they distinguished them.

It was unanimous that Powder 1 was sugar and Powder 2 was salt.

"How did you figure out that salt was No. 2?" asked Fleish, who, incidentally, taught the same students in the third grade at Highmesadow.

"Because of the gritty feeling and because it smelled salty," chimed in Kevin Sack.

Besides, noted Megan Perry, salt had to be No. 2 because of the process of elimination.

"Sugar with liquids really clumps," she said.

Elyssa Fielder had an interesting observation about how she

decided sugar was Powder 1 and salt was Powder 2. "With the water, it dissolved the sugar. And a sugar cube dissolved yesterday during an experiment."

Powder 5 had to be plaster of Paris, said Chas Rosaman. "When we took it out it was in the perfect shape of the spoon. And then we put water on it and it molded even better."

It turned out to be flour, however.

The students ended the morning session talking about the

lifestyle lessons they learned. Answers included cooperation, curiosity and common sense.

"I used common sense to make sure that I didn't use the chemicals in an inappropriate way," said Rachelle Lalonde.

"Did anyone use perseverance? Effort? Patience?" said Fleish.

They were rewarded for the latter. Fleish finally told them what the magical mixture was in Powder 7: flour and plaster of Paris.

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