

Kenbrook students sample the sciences

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@ec.ehomecomm.net

It was a fun, unique opportunity for Kenbrook Elementary School to sample the world of science.

According to teacher Chris Baker, "Kenbrook Family Chemistry Night" was a big hit as nearly 300 students and family members visited 21 stations to work on chemistry experiments.

The various experiments and materials to conduct them were provided by the Ann Arbor Hands On Museum. Baker said Kenbrook faculty members supervised each of the stations.

"We want to raise the awareness (of the subject) and that science is for all grades," Baker explained. "Even kindergartners can do chemistry and physics as well as fourth- or fifth-graders."

One of the more-popular stations was one featuring a strange, green gooey substance called cobblex, apparently concocted from water, corn starch

and food coloring.

"It was really fun when (I) squeezed it and it oozed out of my fingers," said fourth-grader Mike Felice.

Kenbrook Principal Peggy McKinley noted that the March 7 family night was an eye-opener for moms and dads who discovered that "this is not the same science they learned in elementary school."

"This was educational and fun," said parent Cynthia Guyette. "Even my elder son enjoyed it. They thought the activities would be too easy for them at first."

Fifth-grader Stephanie Goppo said she liked the more-colorful experiments. "It was cool how just a drop of water made the paper towel look tie-dyed."

At a station called "impaled polymers," pencils and other sharp objects were punched into plastic bags filled with water. But, because of the elasticity of the polymer, water didn't seep out, Baker said.

There also was the "ultimate polymer," where participants estimate how much water a small square of disposable diaper can hold.

"One piece expanded and held up to 60 milliliters of water," enough to fill a six-ounce cup, Baker said.

Students also tested the starch level of various foods, predicting which ones would have the highest amount.

The "melting point" station was the favorite. Kevin Zangor's favorite, Kevin and other students used wet string, salt and an ice cube and then were able to "magically freeze string into the middle of an ice cube," Baker said.

According to Baker, the Kenbrook PTA-sponsored program helped get everybody at the Farmington district school pumped up about science. And, in 2001-02, science will be a building-wide focus in attaining North Central Accreditation school improvement goals.



React: Kenbrook students and parents enjoyed creating a chemical reaction out of a vinegar-baking soda concoction and then fill up balloons with the gas. Pictured from left are students Eric Aleman, Shane Wechsler and Kevin Vestrand. Standing behind them are parents Lynne Aleman, James Wechsler and Joan Vestrand.

CRIME PREVENTION

Help prevent laptop computer thefts

All types of businesses are experiencing an epidemic of laptop computer theft. Computer manufacturers and security companies are feverishly seeking a solution.

Security executives feel that the products and services designed to lock down laptops, or trace them if they are stolen, are always improving.

Efforts are underway to link laptops with their users, sounding an alarm if the wrong person tries to remove the computers from the office. Technology improvements are important - but they should not be expected to replace the diligence of the owner in protecting his property.

According to Safeware, specialists in computer insurance, laptop theft is growing more than 10 percent a year, with 309,000 laptop computers stolen in the U.S., in 1998.

Laptops cost significantly more than comparable desktop computers - so replacement is more expensive too.

More than two out of five companies reporting computer theft (41.3 percent) said that these thefts are occurring within the

office or factory. A third of the thefts occurred while outside the office (32.9 percent). Beyond the office, the most vulnerable places are cars, taxicabs, airports and hotels.

Research implies that, though many people may be careful with their computers while traveling the same simple precautions are not being used inside their own offices where most of the thefts are occurring.

Corporate security efforts are playing an important role. Building security such as officers, gates, and badges is the most common deterrent to internal theft.

A burglar has attacked businesses in the 12 Mile/Haggerty and Northland/Felicit areas repeatedly since February. The thief comes in the night, picks up a landscaping rock, smashes a window and grabs the nearest laptop computer.

Burglary is not the only crime in which laptops are taken. Some thieves are now bold enough to walk into an office building and should he find a laptop unattended, it may disappear. Purses and other valuables

have also been known to disappear in this manner.

In an attempt to avoid having your laptop taken, here are a few crime prevention tips:

- Engrave all laptops and other office machines with the company name and telephone number. The Farmington Hills Police Department will loan engravers free to residents.
- Put an operation identification sticker in your window after you engrave your office machines. The police department will give you stickers.
- Keep laptop computers out of sight, locked up, or take them home.
- Consider installing an alarm and security camera.
- Do not leave the entry area of your office unattended.
- Install a buzzer entry system.
- Report suspicious persons loitering.

If you have any questions or would like specific crime prevention materials, call 248-473-9637 Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Anniversary Sale

Great Spring
DRESSES
\$39⁹⁹
Compare at \$60.00

Shantung
BLAZERS
20% OFF
Now \$27.99

Ribbed
SWEATERS
50% OFF
Now \$12.50

EXTRA SAVINGS COUPON FOR YOU!

25% off
Any Single Item
DRESSBARN
Miscellaneous and Women Sizes 4-24
Not valid on 50% off merchandise, previous purchases or layaways, gift certificates or clothing and apparel sales. Cannot be combined with any other offer in store.
One coupon per customer per visit. Expires 4/1/01

DRESSBARN

For a store near you visit www.dressbarn.com or call 800-639-6064

FINAL DAYS!

LOST LEASE MUST VACATE

MASSIVE LIQUIDATION SALE

65% TO 80% OFF (When using 30% coupon)

ONE OF THE LARGEST SELECTIONS OF QUALITY ORIENTAL RUGS IN THE STATE GUARANTEED!

Moving to a smaller location on 407 S. Main Street; therefore, must liquidate half of the inventory. Please bring your room measurements and color swatches.

- Traditional & Designer
- Hand-woven Rugs from 2x3 to Mansion Sizes
- Runners
- Rounds
- Persian Silks
- Vegetable Dyes
- Tibetan, much more

Best Selection Lowest Prices Guaranteed!

Must reduce half the inventory; therefore, RECEIVE a **FREE ORIENTAL RUG** with Purchase of equal or greater value.
Not applicable with other offers Exp. 3/25/01

ADDITIONAL 30% OFF On Already Low Prices!
Not applicable with other offers Exp. 3/25/01

HURRY IN FOR THE BEST SELECTION!

Rochester
Designer Rug Gallery
131 Main St., Rochester

M-Sat. 10 am-8 pm
Sun. 12-6 pm

Check, Cash
License No. 2001-01

Downtown Rochester (248) 601-0626

THE DOCTOR IS IN: ORTHOPEDICS

Count on One of the Top Hospitals for Orthopedics.

Crittenton Hospital Salutes Their Orthopedics Team for Being Recognized As One of the Top 100 Hospitals in America.

Quality doctors make the difference. At Crittenton Hospital, our Orthopedic Physicians are expertly trained and committed to delivering the highest quality medical care available.

Chosen as a "Top 100 Hospital in America" for Orthopedic Surgery, Crittenton is recognized as a high-performance hospital for orthopedic surgery. Our physicians prefer sending their patients to Crittenton because they can get the same leading edge medical treatment as the large institutions, in a caring and comfortable atmosphere. The big hospital systems can't provide the same caring and concern that you find at Crittenton.

Count on Crittenton Physicians. They're here for you and so are WE. Call today for an appointment with a Crittenton physician.

CRITTENTON
HOSPITAL IN ROCHESTER
Count on Crittenton.

For Physician Referral Call 1-800-99-4111 www.crittenton.com