Kenbrook students sample the sciences

It was a fun, unique opportu-nity for Kenbrook Elementary School to sample the world of

School to sample the world of science.

According to teacher Chris cience.

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 fof 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 googy substance called cobleck, apparently concerted from water, corn starch

and food coloring.

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

Kenbrook Principal Peggy McKinley noted that the March / 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 older kids enjoyed it. They thought the activities would be too easy for them at first."

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

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

There also was the "ultimate polymer," where participants ostimate how much water as amall square of disposable diaper can hold.

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

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 second-grader Kevin and other students used wet string said 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 overybody 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 stu-dents and parents enjoyed creating a chemical reaction out chemical reaction out of a vinegar-bahing 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 norbehind them are par-ents Lynne Aleman, James Wechsler and Joan Vestrand.



CRIME PREVENTION

Help prevent laptop computer thefts

All types of businesses are experiencing an epidemic of lap-top computer theft. Computer meanufacture and include a computer theft. Computer meanufacture and include a country companies are feverially 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 more than comparable desktop.

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 care, 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 deterrence to internal theft.

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A burglar has attacked businesses in the 12 Mile/Haggerty and Northwestern/Middlebelt 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 disap-pear 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 Iiills Police Department will load engravers free to residents.
■ Put an operation identification atticker 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.

of sight, tocacu arr, home.

Consider installing an alarm and security cameras.

Do not leave the entry area of your office unattended.

of your office unattended.

Install a buzzer entry system.

Report suspicious persons

loitering.

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

Sun. 12-6 pm

Check, Cash

License No. 2001-01

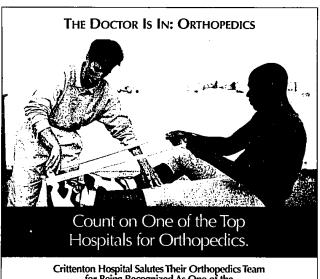
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