

Press Release

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For Immediate Release: January 19, 2012



Science For Kids By Kids Washington Jr. High Students Bring Hands-On Science to DuPage Children's Museum

(Naperville, Ill.) – Chemical reactions and excitement bubbled over in DuPage Children's Museum's Art Studio on January 13 at a special scientific Family Fun Friday Night. Six eighth grade science students from neighboring Washington Jr. High led visitors of all ages in hypothesizing and creating Alka Seltzer Rockets.

“Contributing and giving back to the community is a part of our school’s mission statement,” said Laura Colon, Washington Jr. High science teacher. “Our partnership with the Museum allows us to give back and nurture an appreciation for science among the youngest members of our community.”

Visitors were greeted by the enthusiastic students and led over to the work table, where they would design their experiment using water, film canisters and Alka Seltzer tablets. Each child chose the variables, such as hot or cold water, for their individual experiment, prepared their canister and then tested it to see how far the top of the canister would fly. Children were able to retest their launches with different variables if they chose to do so.

Experiment options were targeted for two different age groups, preschoolers and school-aged children ages 7-10. While Museum visitors enjoyed the hands-on fun, they were also learning about science. The chemical reaction between the tablet and water created carbon dioxide, which produced the pressure that sent the lids of the canisters flying.

“Each one of the students is prepared to explain the science behind the experiment to the younger children,” said Colon. “They are ready to take questions and help encourage them to learn more about science.”

This appearance was the first in a series that continues once a month through April. Each month new activities and scientific principles will be explored. The next appearance is scheduled for Friday, February 17 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Visitors will put their physics skills to the test to see how tall, how large and how strong they can build a tower without it collapsing!

Family Fun Friday Nights provide families greater access to Museum exhibits and activities through extended hours. The Museum is open until 8:00 p.m., giving families with working parents and siblings who attend school during the week a great opportunity to enjoy time together. Families are also welcome to bring their own dinner and enjoy it in the lower level snack area.

About DuPage Children's Museum

DuPage Children's Museum is a top Chicago-area cultural attraction...where learning comes in to play! Via interactive exhibits and programs that make learning fun for children and adults playing together, DuPage Children's Museum helps develop curiosity, creativity, thinking and problem solving in young children. The Museum is located at 301 N. Washington Street in Naperville, Illinois, a quick walk from the Naperville Metra train station. Parking is free and the building is wheelchair accessible. For information about hours, Museum admission and membership packages, visit www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org or call (630) 637-8000.

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Photo: Washington Jr. High student Caroline Durava helps a DuPage Children's Museum visitor launch an Alka Seltzer Rocket during a special scientific Family Fun Friday Night on January 13.