Impressions after a great LEAPS year
by Patrick O'Neill, LEAPS Fellow

It's been a great year for the LEAPS fellows, working with Ms. Garza and Ms. Kluss in the eighth-grade classrooms. We have gone all the way from studying tiny atoms to enormous galaxies. We have seen chemical reactions ranging from bizarre to beautiful, and yes, we've blown up a thing or two. Thank you to all of the families who came to our after-school activities. We have seen many inquisitive young scientists here at Santa Barbara Junior High School. We hope to see you at UCSB in the near future!

Exploring the Science Center
by Lindsay Gary, LEAPS Fellow

On two Fridays in May the students from Mrs. Kluss and Mrs. Garza's science classes took a field trip to the California Science Center in downtown Los Angeles. While they were there they explored some of the different exhibits. The World of Life showed how all kinds of life from people to animals to bugs had life processes that they need to survive. The Creative World let students explore different ideas that have come up for transportation, structures and communication. After eating lunch outside in the rose garden, everyone enjoyed a new IMAX movie called Deep Sea 3-D.

Students Become the Teachers
by Michael Quinn, LEAPS Fellow

The LEAPS students recently organized their own science demonstrations on May 16th and 17th. The first day, held in Spanish, not only targeted Spanish-speaking families, but also gave the students a great opportunity to practice technical Spanish words. The next day was held in English but several presenters were prepared to present in Spanish if needed.

The demonstrations included:
- A burning dollar bill escapes unharmed.
- How is popcorn made?
- Lemon juice and baking soda launch a cork to the ceiling.
- How is cotton candy made?

Students enter under the purple skylight.
Mr. Durham is a California native, but has traveled to over 20 countries in Europe and the Americas. He flew off to frigid Minnesota for college so he could play ice hockey while studying physics. After all these travels, he returned to California to play with teams of robots at UCSB. In his spare time, he enjoys ultimate frisbee, biking, and coding his own computer games.

Mr. Kuo was born and grew up in the Californian deserts but spent a few early years in Georgia. He studied electrical engineering at UC Berkeley, where he started playing German-style board games. Now at UCSB, he programs cameras to track and identify objects, such as people. He likes to sail (but is rarely near a boat) and take pictures (and is rarely far from his camera).

About LEAPS

Let’s Explore Applied Physical Science (LEAPS) engages UCSB graduate and undergraduate Fellows as instructors and mentors for inquiry-based science in Grade 8 classrooms. By establishing collaboration between Fellows, science teachers, and UCSB scientists in school classrooms, the LEAPS project implements hands-on, minds-on learning experiences in physical science.

LEAPS partners with the Endowment for Youth Committee in Santa Barbara to coordinate after school clubs at junior high sites. The Fellows also help younger students to prepare for Family Science Nights that foster community interest in science education and opportunities.

Visit the LEAPS website: www.leaps.ucsb.edu
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