

Family Science Night inspires all who attend

Allison Johnson
Special to The Aspen Times

The biggest challenge that parents faced at Basalt Middle School's first Family Science Night, held in November, wasn't lines or crowds or bored and restless kids. Parents wrestled with a different kind of dilemma: how to pull their children away from a particular table so they could explore the rest of the room.

"He's been at the Snap Circuit table all night," Jeanne Mac-kowski said of her son. "Now I know what to get him for Christmas."

That sentiment echoed throughout the Basalt Middle School cafeteria as more than 100 children in grades four through eight delved into scientific principles ranging from chemistry to electricity to DNA. While Basalt Middle School hosted the event, the John McConnell Math & Science Center of Western Colorado, from Grand Junction, ran the show. The science center sees thousands of Colorado children pass through its doors each year and regularly sends its fellows out to schools with a trunk show of engaging interactive experiments. The evening kicked off with a demonstration that included fire tornados, butane fire bubbles, hydrogen cars and smoke cannons.

"I had a plastic cup blown off my head by a smoke ring from a big air cannon," enthused Basalt Middle School sixth-grader Ethan Tomaskovic said. "It was really windy for a second. That was cool."

After the demonstration, students dispersed to different stations spread throughout the cafeteria. At one table, students



MELISSA GOODMAN/SPECIAL TO THE ASPEN TIMES

Basalt Middle School's first Family Science Night included a demonstration of butane bubbles that were set on fire by a John McConnell Math & Science Center Fellow.

extracted DNA from strawberries. At another, students launched mini marshmallows into the air to test out custom-made catapults. Molecular reactions, pH, chemistry, circuitry and static electricity were given their due, as well. Rounding out the activities were a Basalt Middle School Science Club table showing off recently

made ecosystems housing aquatic and terrestrial habitats and a popular Zometool table manned by Michael Stranahan.

Jackie Francis, of the Aspen Science Center, whose nephew was entranced by a suction cup experiment, notes that events like this are far too infrequent in

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WHERE'S YOUR ASPEN TIMES?



Samantha Hitchcock, Amanda Dykann, K Porter, Nancy Pickard and Anna Freedman Synergy Yoga at the Haramara Retreat in They also stretched their minds by reading have a photo of you and/or your friends The Aspen Times in a faraway spot (west of Difficult Campground will do), send it and look for it in an upcoming Sunday edition.



Aspenites and Notre Dame alumni united Fighting Irish as they defeated the Air Force 26 in Colorado Springs. They also brought Pictured are (front row) John Stewart, Nick of 2007), Bo Gallagher and Reilly Gallagher Cadet Sapp, Cecil Hernandez, Julian Herr Gallagher, Noelle Hernandez and Cadet H

Muhlfeld

ex-wife Joan Muhlfeld. Together they had a daughter, Teige Muhlfeld. As his career developed, he traveled to Japan, plus countrywide instructing people about health and fitness.

In 1990 Bruce moved to California where he became an accomplished television and internet executive. He simultaneously pushed the limits athletically, turning his passion for biking into a cycling career. Placing number one in California, for numerous years, Bruce raced for Trek towards global greatness, placing second in the world with only 6 years of experience under his belt.

Bruce lived by his personal moto, "pain is temporary, pride is forever." He will be missed greatly by his family and friends.

He is survived by wife Tomara Muhlfeld, daughter Teige Muhlfeld, twin sister Robin Muhlfeld, sister Tracy Muhlfeld, brother Bart Muhlfeld, and brother Peter Lomontes.

Please join us in celebrating his life Friday, December 14th, 2013 from 5:00-7:00p.m. at Aspen Mountain Fitness. 311 Airport Business Center, Suite E.

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the Roaring Fork Valley.

"The demonstrations caused kids to jump up and down and cheer, and all the science activities were engaging and educational," she said. "The kids didn't even notice when the volunteers began stacking up the chairs. They would have stayed all night."

Hand-in-hand with the exhilaration of the students was that of the Basalt Middle School parents who raised money for the event with a Back to School Night bake sale earlier in the year. This first-ever Family Science Night made back enough money to ensure that the John McConnell Math & Science Center returns in the spring. The evening also

inspired others to follow suit. The Aspen Science Center now plans to hold a Holiday Science Night at Aspen Middle School on Dec. 18 with holiday-oriented science experiments, Zometools and Santa.

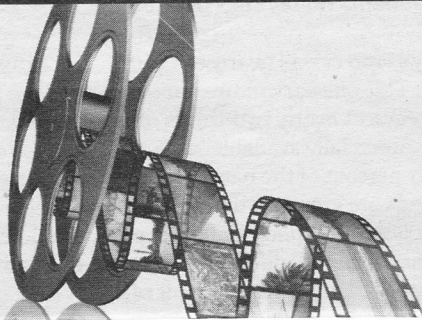
"Our first science night was a great success," said Basalt Middle School Principal Jeremy Voss, who attended with his daughter. "It was wonderful to host this kind of community event that drew families from up and down the valley. The hands-on experiments and demonstrations ignited curiosity, joy and engagement, which is the perfect recipe for learning. We look forward to hosting another science night soon."

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What's On At The Movies



ISIS THEATER

406 E. Hopkins Ave., Aspen 925-7591

PHILOMENA (PG-13)

2:10, 5:00, 7:30PM

THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG-13)

1:30, 4:50, 8:00PM

THE BOOK THEIF (PG-13)

1:40, 4:40, 7:45PM

FROZEN (PG)

1:50, 4:30, 7:15PM

CRYSTAL THEATRE

427 Main St., Carbondale, 963-0633

MOVIELAND

At the stoplight in El Jebel, 920-1300

THOR: THE DARK WORLD (PG-13) 12:40, 3:20, 6:50,

9:35PM

DELIVERY MAN (PG-13) 12:50, 3:30, 7:00, 9:40PM

THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG-13)

12:30, 2:30, 4:10, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30PM

FROZEN (PG) 1:20, 4:00, 6:40PM

FROZEN 3D (PG) 9:25PM

HOMEFRONT (R) 1:10, 3:50, 7:10, 9:50PM

WILDERNESS