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Published October 29th, 2008

OIS Science Fair a Success

By Jean Follmer



Photo Chris Severson

Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) recently held its much anticipated tri-annual Science Fair. The parking lot overflowed as well over 1,000 people attended the 2008 OIS Science Fair. With over 30 interactive science demonstration stations, there were plenty of activities to choose from. The demonstration stations offered chemistry, medical science, life science, "fun" science and astronomy. Some of the demonstrations at the chemistry stations included chemical reactions and explosions. Medical science provided the chance to see real body parts like eyeballs, dissected hearts and joint replacement techniques. Life science stressed the importance of creek preservation and "fun" science made ice cream with liquid nitrogen. The astronomy section was outside and provided telescopes for star gazing and constellation identification. Some of the presenters were from Chevron, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, Clorox, Alta Bates Medical Center, UC Berkeley, Kaiser Permanente, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and Miramonte High School.

The event was coordinated by Glorietta Elementary parent Chris Severson. Severson has four children: three at Glorietta and one in preschool. Although his kids aren't at OIS yet, Severson became involved because 2005 OIS Science Fair coordinator, Andy Sorenson, was looking for help. The OIS Science Fair is a huge undertaking. "We started having steering committee meetings in March. By the beginning of August, we were a full committee," said Severson. "Our focus group was middle school aged kids and younger. Miramonte kids were our helpers throughout the fair. A lot of the scientists (at the fair) have children in the district and/or live locally," said Severson.

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