

# Kids go wild for Mad Science

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Kids learned about electricity, the color spectrum and did hands-on experiments during Mad Science at Rolling Green Elementary on Monday.

Rolling Green, 8100 Airline Ave. in Urbandale, is a continuing calendar school, which has intersessions throughout the year when no classes are held. The Mad Science program was brought in for students as part of the school's intersession week. Kids learned about different aspects of science and will culminate their knowledge Friday with a science fair.

Jim Birkel of Pella, central Iowa Mad Science franchise owner, said he and his other mad scientists try to do hands-on, interesting experiments to keep kids engaged and learning.

"We're trying to get kids excited about science," he said. "My goal is that these kids will take another level of science class because of Mad Science."

Third-grader Lexi Thompson, 8, of Urbandale said the experiments were interesting.

"It was cool when he glowed the light up in the teacher's face," she said referring to an experiment by mad scientist Dan Chase of Des Moines' north side, where he showed kids a teacher's face after putting special paint on her that only shows up in black light.

"I thought it was pretty neat," said third-grader Ben Kenkel, 9, of Urbandale. "I liked getting to do the experiments."

Fifth-grader Marie Ayala, 11, of Des Moines' west side said she learned some safety tips.

"I liked it when he taught us how to be careful with electricity," she said.

Fourth-grader Emma Wilker, 9, of Urbandale said she got a chance to volunteer to help demonstrate an experiment.

"It was really fun," she said. "I liked volunteering."



Third-grader Ben Kenkel, 9, of Urbandale holds a piece of paper towel and waits for instructions before beginning an experiment.



Dan Chase of Des Moines' north side, also known as Dr. Dynamite, shows kids the boxes they will be decorating for the science fair on Friday. Students will decorate the boxes with concepts they learned from the mad scientists throughout the week.



First-grader Necie Thompson, 7, of Urbandale watches an experiment on Monday.



Third-grader Lexi Thompson, 8, of Urbandale slowly dips her paper towel, marked with black ink, into water and waits for the color spectrum to bleed out of the black ink.



Fifth-grader Alex Smith, 10, of Urbandale holds up his "lightening bug in a jar," an experiment designed to show kids how electricity works.



(left to right) Fourth-grader Curtis Cook, 9, of Urbandale; fourth-grader Nouri Bouhaik, 9, of Urbandale; fifth-grader Renise Collier, 10, of Urbandale; and fifth-grader Marie Ayala, 11, of Des Moines' west side hold their "lightening bug in a jar" experiment.



left) Fourth-grader Emma Wilker, 9, of Urbandale and fourth-grader Sydney Lafrentz, 9, of Urbandale hold their "lightening bug in a jar" electricity experiment.