“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”
Albert Einstein

The Joint Institute for Nuclear Astrophysics (JINA) takes Einstein’s famous quote seriously with its educational outreach program for young children titled “From ART to SCIENCE: Igniting Stellar Imaginations.” Through this program, JINA provides books and other materials which point young children (pre-school through elementary school) towards the wonders of the heavens. We then purchase fine art materials as directed by the art teacher and the children create beautiful artwork that we exhibit and publish. Additionally, JINA has adapted this project for one-day events like the Children’s Fine Art Festival in Mishawaka, Indiana and the NSCL lab open house at MSU.

Participating teachers have embraced the project with tremendous enthusiasm. One teacher had this to say:

Who knows how this experience - - - making a connection between art and science - - - may affect the children? Perhaps we are encouraging (in some small way) some of the children to pursue a life-long interest in Science (or ART), with our efforts. I always think of my interactions with children in those terms - - - will something I do, help a child realize a passion in life?

Since 2003, this project has reached over 700 children in three states and has produced a beautiful collection of artwork, some of which is on permanent exhibit in the lobby of the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory at MSU.

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