

Science Alive 2013, South Bend, IN

The St. Joseph County Public Library's 21st annual Science Alive was held Feb 2, 2013. Over 40 exhibits filled the downtown branch, as the main library was turned into a science festival for a day. Over 3000 people attended Science Alive, despite a winter storm. Prior to the expo, JINA, ND Department of Physics and ND College of Science sponsored an exhibitor reception to both provide an opportunity for exhibitors to network for new collaborations, and to honor Becky Bahu, who retired after organizing the first 20 Science Alive events.

JINA had an entire room on the third floor where we interacted with children, parents, and educators using 5 tables of activities including: astronomy coloring sheets, hand-held vacuum chamber, liquid nitrogen demos, radiation activities, and a light absorption activity utilizing LEDs and gummy bears. Hundreds of children filled out raffle slips to try to win a place in our ever popular, upcoming Art 2 Science Summer Camp.

The JINA room was well attended by the public (700+) and press, earning JINA a front-page picture in the printed Sunday paper (above the fold) and ¼ of the online photos of the event.



(Above) Kevin Johnston, Jimtown High School teacher, and JINA researcher, amazes adults and children with liquid nitrogen demos.

(Below) Children explore what happens to marshmallows in space with a hand held vacuum pump.



Professor Phillips explains how the wavelength of light affects absorption with gummy bears.



Linda Conyers (left) promises to continue Becky Bahu's (right) work and preserve the mission of Science Alive



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