

Students serve Valentine's treat

Written by Rachel E. Sheeley Staff Writer

Feb. 14, 2014 |

pal-item.com



Purchase Image Zoom

Mitchell Castiano, left, shows Walt Brazil science Friday at Richmond High School during a fundraiser for the Health Occupations Students of America. Kids enjoyed science and parents could go out for Valentine's Day. / Joshua Smith / Palladium-Item

Learn More

- Learn about Richmond High School's Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) group at its website, <http://rhshosa.weebly.com>, and watch a video at pal-item.com.• The 24-member group, mostly biomedical science students, used the Science and Romance event to raise money to attend the HOSA state competition April 14-16.

Mitchell Castiano, left, shows Walt Brazil science Friday at Richmond High School during a fundraiser for the Health Occupations Students of America. Kids enjoyed science and parents could go out for Valentine's Day.

Foaming, bubbling, gooey experiments kept young hands busy Friday night at Richmond High School, giving parents a chance for a little romance.

The Richmond High School Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) group promised an evening of Science and Romance to area families and they delivered by providing an evening of scientific exploration for youngsters.

At least 100 children filled science classrooms to draw with fizzy paint, get up to their elbows in shaving cream paint, crush soda cans by dunking them in cold water and make magical designs in a bowl full of milk.

Sisters Lexi Adams, 11, and Brooklynne Adams, 6, said their favorite experiment of the evening was the "elephant toothpaste."

Ooohs, aahs and other appreciative noises came from the girls and boys as HOSA adviser Heidi Hisrich, who teaches biomedical sciences at the high school, sent a thick stream of greenish "elephant toothpaste" shooting toward the ceiling out of a two-liter plastic soda bottle. (It's really not toothpaste for elephants. It is made of hydrogen peroxide, yeast, warm water, liquid dish soap and food coloring all mixed in a bottle.)

"My favorite experiment had to be the liquid nitrogen," said Eli Felsman, 11. "The fun thing was where they would put balloons into the liquid nitrogen and make the balloon shrivel up and get very hard, not bendy like plastic, and we would smash them."

Hisrich and senior Nate Martin worked with the liquid nitrogen and experiment-strength hydrogen peroxide to keep the kids safe.

“I learned not to touch the nitrogen,” Lexi said.

“I learned if you put a lot of that stuff (heavy-duty hydrogen peroxide) on your hand you would wrinkle your hand,” Brooklynne said.

Other activities were more hands-on and kid-friendly.

“I’m grabbing goop,” Eli said, sifting his fingers through a substance that was thick but still liquid. “You get a handful of this and it just drips out. I won’t stop doing this because it’s fun.”

Each young participant received a booklet with recipes for experiments they can do at home with parents.