

Taking science to schools

On 18 June, a group of institute scientists visited Carlton North Primary School to participate in the Prep class' 'Our Community'.

To introduce the students to the wonderful world of science we organised a series of hands-on experiments, working in small groups of six preps.

Little people and tiny worlds

Ueli Nachbur and Che Stafford introduced the preps to the microscopic world, looking at close-ups of flowers, strawberries and the students' own hair.

We also used the microscope to check how well the preps washed their hands after making slime – an experiment involving borax and PVA glue mixed together under Holly Anderton's supervision. The results were 'interesting' (and often required further hand washing).

Experiments to excite the imagination

Najoua Lalaoui made "fizzelators" (dancing gloves) by mixing vinegar and bicarbonate soda, and Annette Jacobsen created some rainbow magic by mixing milk, food coloring and detergent.

Leonie Gibson and Diep Chau took the preps back to the basics of science by making and painting molecules made from styrofoam balls and using general lab equipment. It was great to see that a vortex mixer can cause so much excitement for a 6-year-old!

Making an impression

The classroom was echoing with a lot of 'oohs' and 'ahhs'. After a brief recess the preps were treated to an explosive show with coke and Mentos lollies, and bubbles - lots of bubbles. It was such a great experience to introduce preps to the world of science. The excitement on their faces was priceless and hopefully sparked the interest in the youngest generation to the little wonders of nature.

What they said...

"They have certainly put the science fire in the belly for many of the preps" - Amanda (Prep A teacher)

"When I grow up I want to be a scientist" - William (student)

"Science is awesome" - Oliver (student)

- Diep Chau

