

# Hands-on science comes to Linderman

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POLSON — SpectrUM Discovery from the University of Montana in Missoula hauled a truckload of world-class science exhibits and activities to Linderman School on Tuesday, Jan. 27.

During school hours each class of students got to experience hands-on science for a full hour according to Melinda Orchard, third grade teacher at Linderman. SpectrUM support staff explained science principles and answered questions.

Exhibits such as the Bernoulli Blower, based on Bernoulli's Principle which states that fast moving air exerts less pressure than slow moving air, were scattered around the cafeteria. Without a scientific explanation, kids would just have thought the blower was a cool air mover, which kept balls in the air.

Other exhibits included the turntable, a huge metal disk, the Rube Goldberg contraption, flying cups and a table with Keva planks for building.

Marble runs, actually part of the Rube Goldberg contraption, provided bright plastic components for young engineers to fashion into paths for marbles.

A popular attraction was the radar magnets. The 50-plus-pound magnets are replicas of real radar magnets used during World War II, according to Rebecca Sporman, Public Education Coordinator for SpectrUM. The giant magnets were in a Plexiglas corral, which also contained metal filings, washers, nuts and bolts. Kids could stick the metal pieces on the magnets.

Probably the most popular activity, though, was the liquid nitrogen ice cream. Students and parents were lined up three deep at the



Sheridan Houle, 10, and Claire Young, 11, let the Bernoulli Blower give them a new 'do at Linderman School on Jan. 27. SpectrUM was at school with hands-on science activities for kids and parents.

table watching SpectrUM personnel and a Linderman teacher volunteer make ice cream amidst a cloud of cold fog.

For the techies, there was a computer flight simulation and a stop motion animation area.

Claire Young, 11, and Sheridan Houle, 10, were standing with their faces above the Bernoulli Blower so the machine would blow their long hair straight up in the air.

Young said, "I like how the exhibits all relate to science. The magnet is really cool."

Lots of students and their parents agreed, because the lunchroom was jam packed until closing time at 8 p.m.



Ethan Buffington, 8, reacts as the liquid nitrogen blows the off its container. Buffington was building a tall tower with Keva planks.

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