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July 18, 2014 9:00AM

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Kids Korner: Science summer camp 2014

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That camp was the best one I've gone to or heard of. It really took our attention. They (safely and legally!) set dollar bills on fire and turned Ivory soap bars into solid froth. It was run by two North Pocono High School seniors, Ricky White and Ashley Berlot, under the supervision of the physics and chemistry teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Croom.

I wanted to learn a bit more about the camp, so I consulted Ricky and Ashley's mentor, Mrs. Lindsay Croom, to gather more info.

She said, "Last year there were two seniors, Scott Lougee and Nate Rosengrant who wanted to [run a science camp] for their senior project. This year, [Ricky and Ashley] wanted to make it larger by opening it up to the entire fourth grade."

Alas, the camp was on Father's Day weekend, so I along with some other kids were not able to attend the last day.

"Unfortunately, that was the only day that both the students and mentors were available. I was so excited that so many students were able to attend."

My mom showed me a video with physicist Dr. Michio Kaku. He stated that kids are born scientists and that the current school system sometimes crushes the scientist in kids -- with materials they have to memorize as the introduction to the material. They introduced the concepts through experiments first, so everyone enjoyed it.

According to Mrs. Croom, her opinion was that "in certain urban schools this may be the case, especially in the world of standardized testing where the information is important."

She continued, "At North Pocono, we strive to inspire the students through hands-on learning in the science classrooms. The curriculum doesn't always allow for you to do experiments first, but I do it as often as I can to engage the students.

"I find that most students have a deeper understanding when they are actively engaged. Unfortunately, there are times when memorization of material is necessary, but whenever possible, I try to include a hands-on experience to reinforce the topics."

Mrs. Croom would like to add that she had a great time with the science camp and hopes to do it again next year.

I would like to congratulate Ashley Berlot and Ricky White for doing such a great job teaching this year's camp.

Thank you, Mrs. Croom, for doing the interview. I think the camp was well organized and I had such a fantastic time there. Every kid had fun learning through messy and fun experiments. This camp proves that science can be so much fun!

See you 'round the Korner!

Aurora Lefever is a fourth grade student at North Pocono Intermediate. Please e-mail any ideas or suggestions for future columns to editor@moscowvillager.com with a subject line "Kids Korner."



Mr. and Mrs. Croom at Rocky Mountain National Park. SUBMITTED

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