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# NEWS RELEASE

## "Science Travels" Visits O'Gorman High School Students

Timmins, November 5, 2010:

*Science Travels* is an outreach program developed by the University of Ottawa. For many years now Science Travels has sent 4 graduate students to make presentations to our high school students. This year the university graduate students presented to two grade 9 geography classes; with presentations on earthquakes and tectonic plates. The science classes saw presentations on chemical magic, immunology, DNA and Biotechnology, and electrochemistry. O'Gorman High School students also had an opportunity to ask the grad students about university life and what their research is about.

"Not only did we learn about DNA in a fun and creative way, we were also given insight into university life, an area we may wish to pursue in the future. Thanks!" commented Sarah Cashabec, Grade 12 student at OHS.

Darren Berthier, OHS Principal commented "It is a great experience for all. *Science Travels* allows students at different educational levels to come together and discuss areas of interest. We welcome these kind of presentations and discussions for our students."

*Science Travels* workshops presented to OHS students on November 2, 2010 were:

**Earthquakes:** This workshop includes a PowerPoint presentation that covers the basics of earthquakes: plate tectonics, faults, magnitude vs. intensity, seismic waves and locating the epicenter.

**Chemistry Magic Show (all grades):** A variety of demonstrations are presented to the class to showcase the vivid nature of chemistry. Demos may include: Evil Scientist Brew, Charcoal /  $\text{KNO}_3$ , Hard Water, Sugar Snake, Burning Money, Death to Gummi Bears, Exploding Rockets, Volcano, Exploding Boat, Slime, Heavy Air, Melt the Wicked Witch, Foam Mould, Explosive fun, Traffic Lights, Pop Can Cannon, Acid Breathe Experiment, Liquid Nitrogen Fun, Elephant Toothpaste, Genie in the Bottle, Endothermic Ice Forming Reaction, Electrolytic solutions, and Flubber.

**DNA and Biotechnology (grade 7-12):** A short presentation on DNA and the techniques involved in forensics and biotechnological research begins the session. *Activities include:* making a DNA strand out of candy, DNA extraction from a banana or cheek cells, electrophoresis (loading a DNA agarose gel, viewing pre-run and stained agarose gels), crime scene scenario, suspect identification or paternity testing (matching DNA fragmentation patterns), bacterial plasmid transformation, and size exclusion chromatography.

**Electrochemistry – Lemon Batteries (grades 10-12):** This workshop provides a brief history of the battery and electrochemical cells, redox reactions and the principles of reduction and oxidation. **Hands-on activity:** assembling multi-cell lemon batteries powerful enough to light LEDs. Potatoes and onions may also be used.

**For more information, please contact:**

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