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Surrounded by Science | Community Spirit

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Surrounded by Science



Submitted by [Integrity Education Centre \(/profile/46383/integrity-education-centre\)](#), Ms. Lane's Class Act
Thursday, May 16th, 2013, 1:51pm

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Isabella Viker of Integrity Education Centre strikes a pose at the Mesa Community College Science Labs. Photos by; Stacey Lane

Surrounded by Science

By Evelyn Gonzalez, Sixth-grader, Integrity Education Centre

On May 10 the third through sixth-graders of Ms. Lane's class at Integrity Education Centre went to the Life Science Department at Mesa Community College, Southern and Dobson Campus and met Vincent Gorge, Governing Board Certified – PSA, Science Laboratory Technician and he took us on a tour of the laboratories.

Mr. Gorge taught us many things and started outdoors where he told us about the landscaping and botanical gardens on campus. Then he showed us some fossils in a glass and aquariums that were very cool. There was fish, crabs, tiny star fish, and coral. Mr. Gorge said they can change the water to be calm and also stormy and they can change the light to be night and sunny. "The LED lighting requires less energy and less heat. This is used to simulate natural lighting and the day cycle is programmed to duplicate thunderstorms and moon phases," Mr. Gorge said.

Then Mr. Gorge showed us a room where it had some of the human body, but it was not real. Then we went to a room where Mr. Gorge showed us the animals and we got to touch them. Mr. Gorge first pulled out the Chuckwalla the skin was rough. Second, he pulled out the Desert Tortoise and then he took out a Bark Scorpion. It was small and brown and he carried it on his hand.

We saw snakes, a scorpion, a tarantula, a wood house's toad, a desert tortoise and a kangaroo rat. My favorites were the turtle, the toad, and the cute kangaroo rat. The kangaroo rat's hearing is very keen. It is so sharp it can hear a snake strike. "The kangaroo rat is jumpy and fast, we had to remain quiet because it is very sensitive to sound," sixth-grader Kenneth Phimmasone shared.

Fourth he pulled out the Gopher Snake it was really cool and it was very heavy. Mr. Gorge told us that snakes do not have eyelids. "It was awesome holding the gopher snake, it is really quite beautiful," third-grader, Isabella Viker said with a smile. We learned many facts about animals and their habitat. We also learned that protecting our animals is helping the earth. Afterwards, we washed our hands and had a picnic lunch with Mr. Gorge. The field trip was very fun.

To learn more about Mesa Community College visit www.mesacc.edu (<http://www.mesacc.edu>)



Students learn about sea life and the day cycles via the aquarium at MCC Science Labs.







Vince Gorge teaches hands-on at Mesa Community College.

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