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'Leo on Wheels' mobile exhibit visits Ogden's Da Vinci Academy

By *admin*

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Standard-Examiner staff

OGDEN -- Kate Rader learned that electricity hurts at The Leo on Wheels exhibit at her school.

"I have sympathy for those who have been hit with lightning," she said, adding it must hurt hundreds of thousand times worse than the small shock she received Monday while participating in an exhibit about electrical currents with her classmates. The Leo on Wheels is an educational outreach program put on by The Leonardo, a science, technology and art center for young people and adults that is under development in Salt Lake City.

The exhibit is showing this week at Da Vinci Academy, 2033 Grant Ave., in Ogden, teaching students about science in a fun, hands-on way. It's open to the public for free from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. tonight.

"I think the whole idea is to have students captivated by the wonders of science," said Ron Hellstern, a teacher at Da Vinci Academy who helped bring the exhibit to the school.

"They are able to explore and do some discovery work with these exhibits."

The Leo on Wheels features 12 to 15 interactive exhibits that feature extreme hands-on activities, such as experiencing electrical currents, converting energy in the student's legs into electrical energy, navigating through human anatomy with computer dissection, and learning about probability with dice in a craps game.

Students at Da Vinci will tour the exhibit throughout the week. Hellstern said students in fifth or sixth grades or higher would benefit most from the exhibits.

Analiesa Leonhardt, an education specialist for The Leonardo, travels with the exhibit and teaches students the science behind the experiments.

"We want to inspire kids to see the fun (in science,)" she said. "Our goal is to inspire and interest students about the sciences."

The exhibits are constantly changing, education specialist Ian McClintick said, but there are definitely some student favorites.

"It's interesting to see how the kids will react," he said. "We have to keep on our toes."

The Leonardo is slated to open in 2011.

The center will host multidisciplinary exhibits, workshops, art installations, classes and other events.

For more information, visit www.theleonardo.org [1].

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Outreach program takes science, technology and art exhibits to schools

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Links:

[1] <http://www.theleonardo.org>