Reflections: Bioeyes ‘09

or

Country Mouse Goes to the City

by

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This has been a fabulous experience. I’ve been learning new things by the minute. Every day has been packed with new learnings for me. I am really looking forward teaching my first graders some of what I’ve absorbed. I also look forward to using the teaching techniques demonstrated by the presenters. My focus will be how to distill the knowledge and techniques for developmentally young students.

Zebra fish: First graders have a problem with sharing and waiting. I am not sure that they have the physical dexterity to handle pipettes and microscopes. They will be SO excited just to handle the equipment that it is imperative that they have experience with the equipment beforehand. We do have microscopes available and I will make sure they get the experience. I liked the attitude that “We Are Scientists” and whatever we do is done with a serious attitude. One of the first grade GLCEs (Grade Level Content Expectation) in Science is to exhibit understanding of life cycles. I plan to study Monarch butterflies in the fall and this will be further understanding in the second semester. I can do some of the genetics but leave that for later grades.

The Laboratories: What a wonderful tour! I had no idea that zebrafish are such an important animal for research. I appreciate the time everyone took from the work they do to share, but mostly I enjoyed the way the grad students seemed so enthusiastic and excited. Maybe there will be a solution for eye and muscle diseases.

Pedagogy: There have been no wasted moments. ☺ The labs were all new to me. I could have used a little more explanation before I started, but I feel like I do for golf. It makes me humble and I appreciate how students feel when thrown into the school situation.

Modern Lab: I haven’t been is a genuine science lab for a few years (decades). It is all new to me. I am totally ignorant of lab techniques and am grateful for the patient teaching from instructors and fellow teachers. I enjoyed the opportunity to use state of the art equipment.

I appreciate having this excellent opportunity. The NSF has succeeded. I will insist my students understand that SCIENCE IS FUN! I myself am going to be a scientist in my next life.