



**Karrer Middle School sixth-graders (from left) Katie Ash, Cami Kowalski and Sonsarae Cobbs analyze different properties of bubbles during a Science Challenge held during spring break at the school. About 25 students participated in a variety of scientific experiments during the classes.**

## SPRING BREAK

### Students study science during time off

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While their peers were resting their brains over spring break, a group of Dublin middle school students was staying active academically in a Karrer Middle School science classroom.

Karrer teachers Bob Cline and Chris Miller, who usually offer Science Challenge classes over the summer, did so over spring break for the first time.

"We like doing science classes and like doing the camps," Cline said. "They get the kids excited about science beyond the classroom without the tests, quizzes, homework and anxiety."

"I don't know who has more fun, us or them," he said.

"It's a great way to keep in touch with the kids over break ... watch them have fun with science," Miller said.

The 26 students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades were from all four Dublin middle schools. Miller said that added to the learning.

The kids met with the teachers for two and a half hours on the Tuesday and Wednesday of spring break week. Several experiments were packed into each session.

Students learned how to link nails together and balance them on the head of another nail, how to make a pickle glow, how planes fly and how to get a hard-boiled egg into and out of a bottle.

On Wednesday three boys stood around a table placing pennies inside an aluminum foil boat, trying to affect the right balance so their boat wouldn't sink.

Jordan Newlon, a sixth-grader at Karrer, was the facilitator, pointing to where Joe Cassidy, a seventh-grader at Sells Middle School, and Jon Mason, a sixth-grader at Karrer, could safely place the pennies.

"I like science," Cassidy said when asked why he wanted to spend part of his break in school.

"Science is fun," Newlon said.

Sara Arbogast, a seventh-grader at Sells, said the class sounded interesting and gave her something to do while her parents worked. She wants to be a veterinarian, so any chance to study science is welcome, she said.

"It was really exciting to do a bunch of experiments," said Karrer seventh-grader Ashwatha Thenappan. "You would never get to do this stuff in class."

Cline and Miller plan to offer three classes this summer, one a science challenge and the other two on the principles of flight. For more information, e-mail Brain Fusion LLC at [BrainFusion@columbus.rr.com](mailto:BrainFusion@columbus.rr.com)