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Mackenzie youth become CSIs and Engineers with Let's Talk Science

MACKENZIE, B.C. – More than 300 Mackenzie Morfee Elementary students will be immersed in the world of crime scene investigators and engineers during a visit from Let's Talk Science volunteers from the University of British Columbia (UBC) and Simon Fraser University (SFU) on Tuesday, May 10.

Between 8:45 a.m. and 12 p.m., students will explore what CSI scientists look for at crime scenes, learn about fingerprinting, and learn about various abilities used by engineers.

During the session, Let's Talk Science volunteers, who are current students or recent graduates from UBC and SFU, will engage the kids in exciting hands-on science activities that include taking and analyzing their own fingerprints and building a tower that holds its "engineer" as high as possible using minimal and unusual materials. Students will learn that by doing these types of activities, they are engineers and crime scene investigators themselves.

Just for fun, students will also get to make their own slime!

"Doing hands-on science activities with kids of all ages is a great way for them to utilize their creative minds and experience their full potential," says Andreea Gheorghe, Let's Talk Science volunteer from UBC. "The kids seem to truly enjoy the experience – which is all we can ask for!"

Let's Talk Science volunteers also strive to make science learning relevant and accessible so children and youth at any age can understand how science impacts their everyday lives.

"We base a lot of our activities on materials that teachers and students have access to: Popsicle sticks, straws, modelling clay, spaghetti and balloons," says Denise Lang, Let's Talk Science Coordinator at SFU. "While these aren't your typical 'science supplies', they are actually great tools and serve to break the stereotype that science is removed from everyday life, requires expensive equipment and fancy lab-coats."

Let's Talk Science aims to deliver free science outreach to rural, remote and Aboriginal communities, as well as urban centres.

"Science outreach road trips are a great way to reach a lot of schools that don't normally get many visitors like us," says Lang.

The Government of British Columbia, through the Year of Science Initiative has provided support for the science outreach trip to this community.

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About Let's Talk Science:

Let's Talk Science is an award-winning, national, charitable, science outreach organization. Through Let's Talk Science Outreach, we engage more than 2,600 enthusiastic post-secondary student volunteers at 33 universities and colleges across Canada to turn more than 120,000 kids on to science, engineering and technology each year. For more information about Let's Talk Science, please visit www.letstalkscience.ca.