

After School Group Visits ECHO Center
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On March 4, the Cornell Cooperative Extension 21st Century After School Program students from L.P. Quinn Elementary school in Tupper Lake traveled to the ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center in Burlington Vermont. Students were met by a guide who explained that “**ECHO**” represents the mission of the organization which is to “educate and delight” people of all ages about the **E**cology, **C**ulture, **H**istory and **O**pportunities for stewardship of the Lake Champlain Basin. The center is home to 70 species of fish, amphibians, invertebrates, and reptiles, traveling exhibitions, and a multi-media Awesome Forces Theatre. Echo offers animal encounters, such as; feed the frogs, and hands on activities that are educational and family-friendly.

One of the most popular exhibits was the live Sea Urchins and Starfish. Students listened intently to the ECHO volunteer as he explained how Sea Anemone, Sea Urchins, Starfish, and Hermit Crabs all live together. Another popular exhibit was the Kinetic Sand table. The sand could be shaped into water basins, and river outlets, then, when the students placed their hand over the table a light, which looked like water, would shine down and show the students which direction the water would go if the area was flooded.

The ECHO Center was fun, fascinating and educational for students as well as chaperons. All the students learned something new, and enjoyed themselves. As 5th grade student Logan Sutton put it “I definitely want to come back here again!” A sentiment repeated many times, by all of the students, as we made our way home that evening. Program and trip provided by funds awarded through State Education Department.



ECHO Center pic-1 Caption: Brian Hall, Emily Roberts, and Tyler LaPlante are working on a river bed with the Kinetic Sand.



ECHO Center pic-2 Caption: 31 youth from the Tupper Lake 21st Community Learning Center spent the day at the ECHO Science Center in Burlington, Vermont. Event made possible from funds awarded through State Education Department.