

STUDENTS WITH HEARING LOSS ATTEND TVDSB DISCOVERY DAY

Stella Ng
University of Western Ontario

The Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) held a "Discovery Day" for children with hearing loss at the University of Western Ontario (Western) May 21, 2010.

Thirty-eight children in grades 6 to 8 from public schools across the London district attended the annual event. It was hosted for the first time at Elborn College, thanks to the generosity of faculty members and graduate students from the National Centre for Audiology and School of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

The day began with three workshops, which students rotated through in smaller groups. The workshops were: Connecting to technology, with Dr. Susan Scollie and Hearing Science PhD Candidate Jeff Crukley, using equipment provided by Oticon; Ask an Audiologist, with Dr. Marlene Bagatto and MCISc audiology student Jacob Sulkers, in the Child Amplification Laboratory; and Self-Advocacy and your Future, with MCISc audiology student Alasdair Cummings, including a tour of the Anechoic Chamber.

Kris Martin, a race car driver and NASCAR hopeful, joined students for a pizza lunch sponsored by Phonak. He spent an hour talking about how he has pursued his dreams and adapted his racing gear and communication technology for use with his cochlear implant.

Students were surprised to get the opportunity to see Kris' race car, sit in it and have their photo taken with Kris. His message to the students was very motivating and inspirational. We are very grateful to him for sharing his talents and perspectives on hearing with students. We are also grateful to Supportive Hearing Systems for providing sponsorship funds that allowed Kris to join us.

Finally, Hearing Science PhD Student Christine Meston,



Photo courtesy of Stella Ng

Students learned how race car driver Kris Martin adapted his racing gear for use with his cochlear implant at Discovery Day May 21.

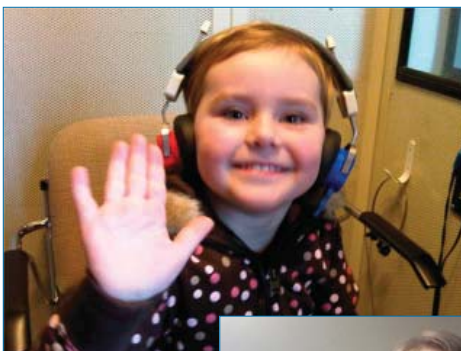
MCISc audiology student Jennifer Orr, and MCISc speech-language pathology students Jennifer Paradis and Jessica Tong led the group of students in a team-building game.

The TVDSB Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program team involved in this day included itinerant teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing: Phyllis Bartley, Wendy De Jeu, Sandy Druet, Kiersten Fallon, Janet Henry, Ed Kearney, and Karen Partridge; special education learning coordinator Andrea Leatham; educational audiologists Brenda Buckrell and Stella Ng; teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing Ainsley Latour and educational assistant B.J. Rayner.

A special thanks from the TVDSB team goes out to: Dr. Prudence Allen, director of the National Centre for Audiology, and Dr. J.B. Orange, director of the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, for their support of this event. Thanks also to all the faculty, staff and students at Elborn College and Western for their welcoming attitudes.



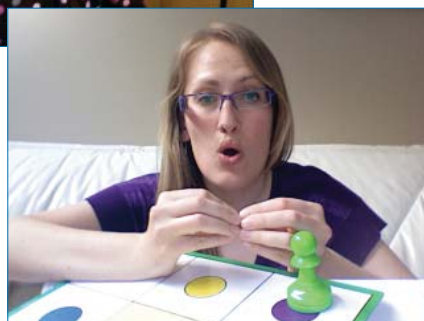
A FEW PHOTO ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO MY MAY MONTH CONTEST 2010



3-year-old Rachel participates in a hearing test. Photo submitted by Jane Steinberg



S-LP Tamara Agar, right, uses learning material to interact with Scarlet. Photo submitted by Tamara Agar



Tamara Wasiak in "Self-portrait of a S-LP." Photo submitted by Tamara Wasiak

Ethan demonstrates hearing safety measures with ear plugs. Photo submitted by Linda Thompson

