

Purple Ink

Rockford Lutheran High School Rockford, IL

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Purple Ink

Rockford Lutheran High School
Rockford, IL

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UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH BUGSCOPE

Friday, March 20, 2009 *By*

The seventh graders in Mrs. Dobler's science classes entered the world of bugs this month.

"*Bugscope* offers students a unique way to learn. Several of the seventh graders had the opportunity to use classroom computers to position and focus the \$750,000 scanning electron microscope at U of I -- viewing items that they personally handled just days before. All of the students were able to view the organisms at the nanoscale level and view detail that is simply incredible. In our session three administrators were on hand to answer student questions via an active chat-line. The collaborators at *Bugscope* were extremely skillful, humorous and gifted, which led most students to conclude this was an event that would be well worth repeating." stated Mrs. Dobler.

Bugscope, an activity arranged through the University of Illinois, encourages classes to send their own specimens of insects to be viewed. Dobler's students chose various bees, spiders, aphids, and a beetles that were in good shape to be mounted on slides.

During the students' live chat with the University of Illinois, entomology students from the university frequently joined the seventh graders' live sessions to provide extra information about the insects.

Kenzie Bakke said, "I liked looking at the spiders."

According to its website, *Bugscope* is run by the Imaging Technology Group at the



Pam
Seventh graders participate in Mrs. Dobler's Bugscope simulations. Emma works on the laptop while Matthew, Thomas, and Anna wait patiently for their turns. Their classmate Aidan said, "I thought [Bugscope] was very unique and a once in a lifetime experience."

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Beckman Institute at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The Imaging Technology Group (ITG) is a collection of imaging specialists and microscopists who provide state-of-the-art imaging facilities to researchers on the University of Illinois campus.

Aidan Osborne said, "I thought [*Bugscope*] was very unique and a once in a lifetime experience."

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