

COMMUNITY SERVICE - TALK ON ROCKS AND MINERALS

by Brett Jurgens

On February 24th, I gave a talk on rocks and minerals to the students at George P. Stone Elementary School located at Union college. The club had received an email asking for someone to come talk to the school after their 5-8 graders had completed a science block on geology.

George P. Stone is a private, mixed grade school with students ranging from kindergarten through eighth grade. There were 24 students of varied ages in the audience. I brought a table full of rocks and minerals that we passed around during the talk. Quartz crystals and petrified wood were very popular items. The students were exceptionally behaved and asked lots of great, thoughtful questions. I would dare to say the teachers enjoyed the talk and rocks as much as the kids. There were lots of oohs and aahs after pulling the shades and showing off some fluorescent minerals from Franklin, New Jersey.

At the end of the talk each student was able to pick out a small Lake Superior agate and a polished and unpolished Bubble Gum agate to add to their collection. Each student was also given a show postcard. Activities such as this are how we grow awareness in the hobby and, hopefully, the club as well. Most kids are interested in rocks at some point. It is our responsibility to foster that interest and help it to stick.