

# 2009 'KIDS IN SCIENCE PROGRAM' (KISP)

## Once Again A Huge Success in 2009!

Markus Ebner and Pratt Barndollar

The Kids in Science Program (KISP) hit the joint CSPG/CSEG/CWLS convention floor running again this year on the morning of May 5th, 2009. The KISP program hosted 170 grade 8 and 9 students from Our Lady of Peace and Sir John Franklin-Junior High Schools. The goal of the program is to give the kids information about the earth sciences in a fun and interactive way. As a symbiotic-side effect, the kids also liven up the atmosphere across the floor!

Small groups with up to six students visited 25 corporate and professional society exhibit booths over a three-hour period. At each booth the kids saw a short presentation by the host exhibitor followed by a question and answer worksheet session related to the host's technical or industry role. Students were accompanied by 29 "guides"; industry volunteers who answered general questions and kept the procession moving in tune and on time around the convention floor.

Following the visit to the exhibit floor, the students, teachers and volunteer guides enjoyed lunch in the Stampede Blue Room, followed by a rousing game of "Geo-Pardy", where they had the opportunity to test their geoscience knowledge in friendly competition. David Moore and Markus Ebner did an excellent job as co-hosts-announcers-judges.

In the weeks before the convention trip, students attended informal, interactive, in-school presentations on geology, geophysics and paleontology. These presentations offered hands-on exposure to rocks and fossils and to the tools used by modern industry, combined with some one-on-one time with professional geoscientists. The Burgess Shale fossils and a "seismograph" were popular interactive experiences.

Feedback received from the students, teachers, volunteer guides and the host-exhibitors has been unanimously positive. The students loved the exhibit floor – some were overheard during the lunch proclaiming that they were changing their future profession choice from rock star to geologist. The guides and exhibitors enjoyed the interaction and energy of a captive young crowd. A number of host-exhibitors' feedback forms mentioned that volunteering with the KISP program actually increased traffic to their booths with professionals wanting to know what the 'buzz' was about around their booths. Teachers are using the question sheets prepared on the trip to incorporate geoscience instruction into their programs.

KISP is sponsored by the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation, and Imperial Oil; the CSEG and APEGGA graciously donated funding this year. Our professional societies have hosted

convention visits to students in the past, but KISP in its present form was developed by Randle Robertson, Director of the Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation, and Dave Middleton, then CSPG Outreach Director. They recognized that junior and senior high school curricula are generally lacking earth science units at a time when students are formulating their future career decisions.

Exposure to the wide variety of geoscience opportunities available to them may influence their career choice. During their lifetimes, these students will face critical issues on power generation, water supply, waste disposal, air quality and food supply. It is important to give them the knowledge necessary to make appropriate decisions, even if they do not go on to become professional earth scientists.

### The objectives of KISP are:

1. To re-introduce Earth Sciences into the science curricula for junior high school students and teachers in Alberta;
2. To expose students to various career options and appropriate levels/types of education in the geological sciences;
3. To create an interest among junior high school students to pursue post-secondary studies in the earth sciences;
4. To provide students with the knowledge to make informed decisions on management of diminishing resources;
5. To inform students about the significance of the Burgess Shale UNESCO-World Heritage Site.

The Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation, Imperial Oil, the CSEG and APEGGA wish to thank all of the volunteers, students and teachers who participated in KISP 2009, with a special thanks to the host-exhibitors and to the KISP Committee members. Even in these times of temporary economic uncertainty in our industry, it was clear that the enthusiasm and support for excellent programs such as KISP have not wavered. The KISP organizing committee would like to offer a heartfelt thank-you to everyone that contributed their time, energy and resources to make this program a continued success once again this year.

The KISP organizing committee is working on an expanded initiative for next year's GeoCanada 2010 convention and will be calling for more volunteers. Please contact Markus Ebner at m.ebner@shell.com or 403-691-3764 for more information. **R**

#### 2009 KISP Organizing Committee

Randle Robertson (The Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation) – *KISP initiator and school liaison*  
Markus Ebner (Shell) – *project manager*

Hassan Odhwani (Divestco) – *lead for exhibitor hosts*  
Annette Milbradt (Shell) – *lead for guide coordinator*  
Pratt Barndollar (Talisman) – *past project manager, in-school presentations*

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(Photos courtesy: Annette Milbradt)

## Thanks and Appreciation to all the 2009 KISP Participants

*A special thanks to the 170 grade 8 and 9 students from: Our Lady of Peace and Sir John Franklin Junior High Schools in Calgary.*

**KISP Sponsors: Imperial Oil, APEGGA, Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation, CSEG**

### KISP Volunteer Guides

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Allison Mathieu  | Katarina Rothe   |
| Andy Marshall    | Lida Goldchteine |
| Bob Whale        | Louis Blinn      |
| Candace Bruins   | Mark Lane        |
| Claus Sitzler    | Mike Rogers      |
| David Gardner    | Oliver Kuhn      |
| David Germscheid | Pratt Barndollar |
| Diane Shao       | Simon Haynes     |
| Ernie Greenwood  | Stacey Perilli   |
| George Lau       | Stephen Kotkas   |
| Glenn Malcolm    | Steven Hill      |
| Haroon Aziz      | Susan Thomson    |
| Helen Isaac      | Tanu Dixit       |
| John MacDonald   | Vince Ekvall     |
| Jon Noad         |                  |

### KISP Exhibitor/Hosts

- AGAT Laboratories Ltd.
- Alberta Geological Survey
- APEGGA
- Baker Hughes
- The Burgess Shale Geoscience Foundation
- Canmore Museum & Geoscience Centre
- CGGVeritas
- Core Laboratories Canada Ltd.
- CREWES, University of Calgary
- CSEG – Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists
- CSPG – Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists
- Divestco Inc.
- GEDCO – Geophysical Exploration & Development Corporation
- Genetek Earth Research Corporation
- geoLOGIC systems ltd.
- Geomodeling Technology Corp.
- Petroleum Human Resources Council of Canada
- Petrosys Canada Inc.
- Roxar
- RPS Energy
- SAIT – Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
- Schlumberger
- Seismic Micro Technology (SMT)
- TOTAL Gas Detection Ltd.
- University Student Outreach – CSPG/CSEG