Forensics

The Stars Challenge at Monmouth University 2009

Forensics

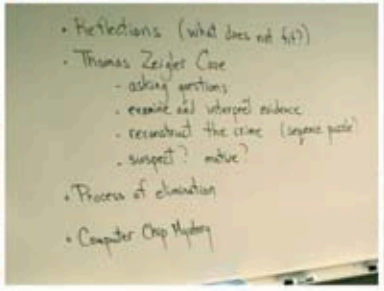
This has been a delightful semester. Although the introductions in our first class demonstrated a some what reserved group of students, their curiosity and eagerness to explore the work of a forensic scientist began to fill each session with energy.

Each case presented new forensic investigative skills. It was evident that students were willing and able to accept the challenges presented to them. In the Case of Thomas Ziegler, we learned how to interpret evidence and reconstruct the crime. As we moved on to the Case of the Missing Microchip, we practiced interviewing and organizing data.

In our last case, we used a flame test to identify an unknown substance and fibers found in Lyndon's locker. Analyzing fingerprints one week and calculating the angle of trajectory in blood splatter in another.

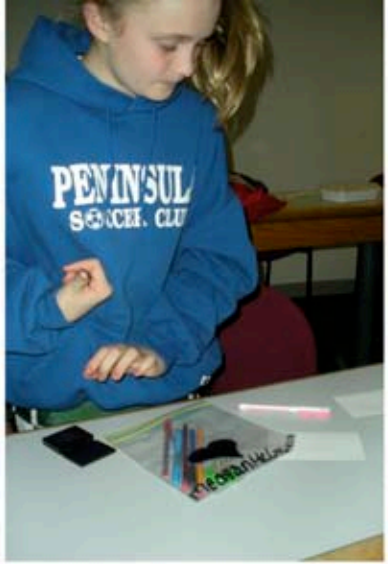
According to Locard's Exchange Principle, "Every contact leaves a trace." To the crime scene investigator, this means physical evidence exchanged between a suspect and a victim during any physical contact must be carefully collected and analyzed. To me, this means… experiences exchanged between all class members must be carefully collected and remembered.

Ms. Hui



We need to look beyond the obvious.

We practiced taking our own fingerprints.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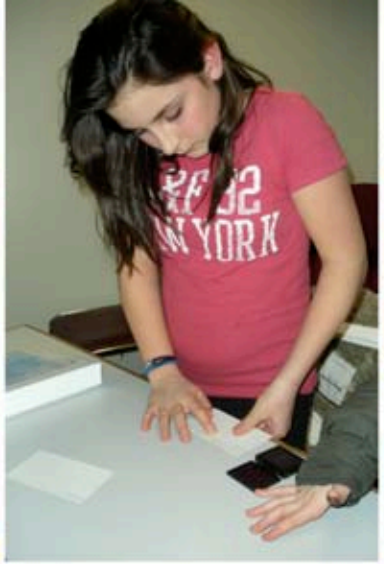

YORK


Clues about suspect

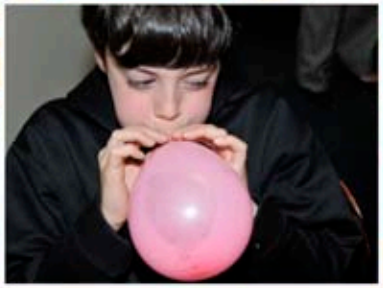
After taking on character roles, we worked to solve the case of the Missing Computer Chip.


Name
This is a
handwriting
Look





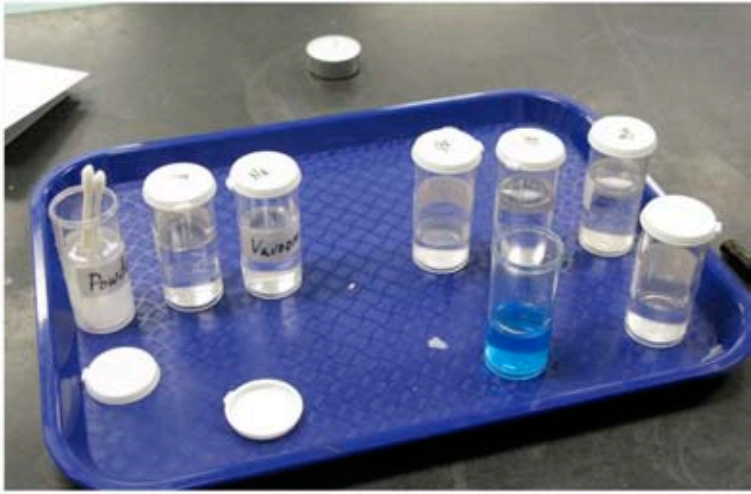

We examined our own currency for security features.



We practiced identifying our own fingerprint ridges.

Super glue fuming and magnetic powder can be used to reveal latent prints.



We used a flame test to identify the white power found in Lyndon’s locker.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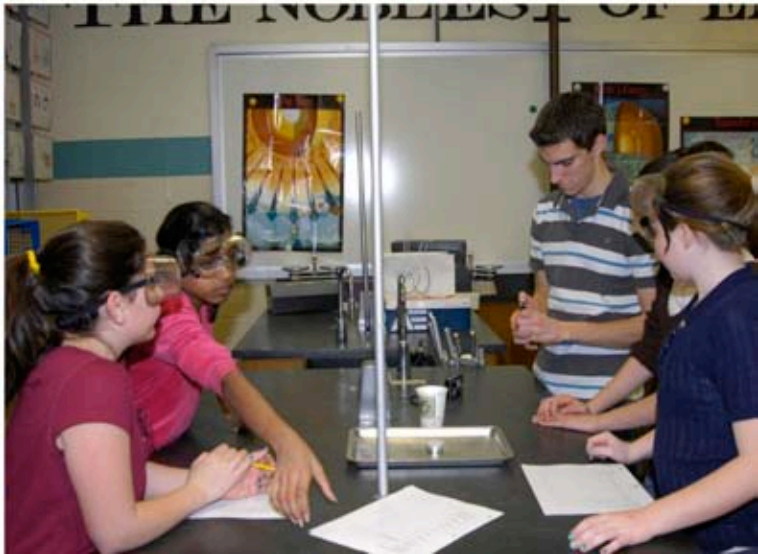
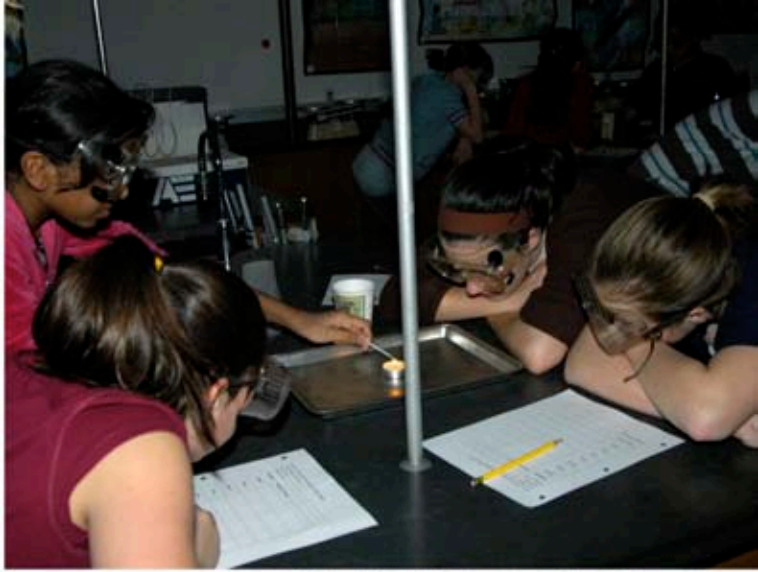
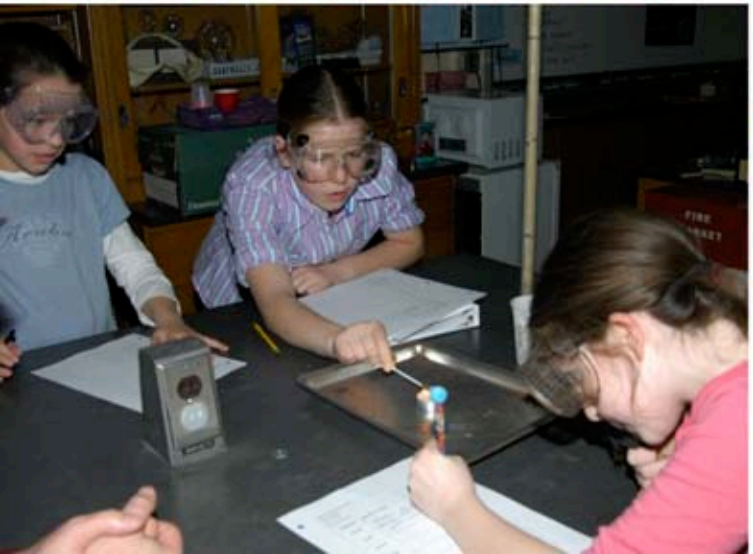
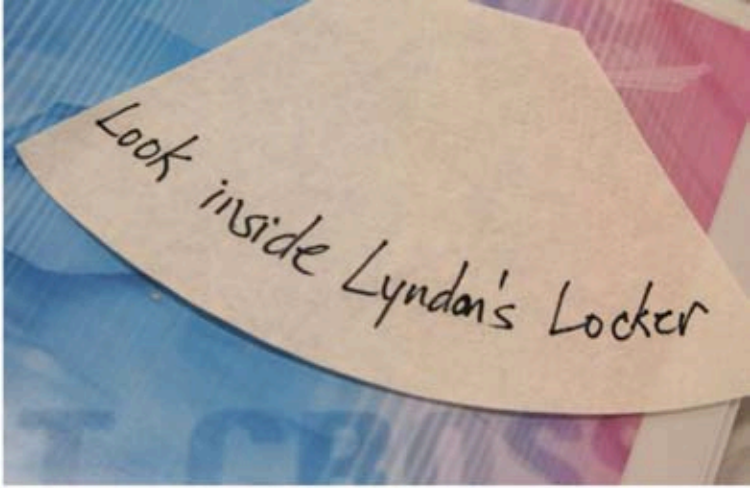
WATER.



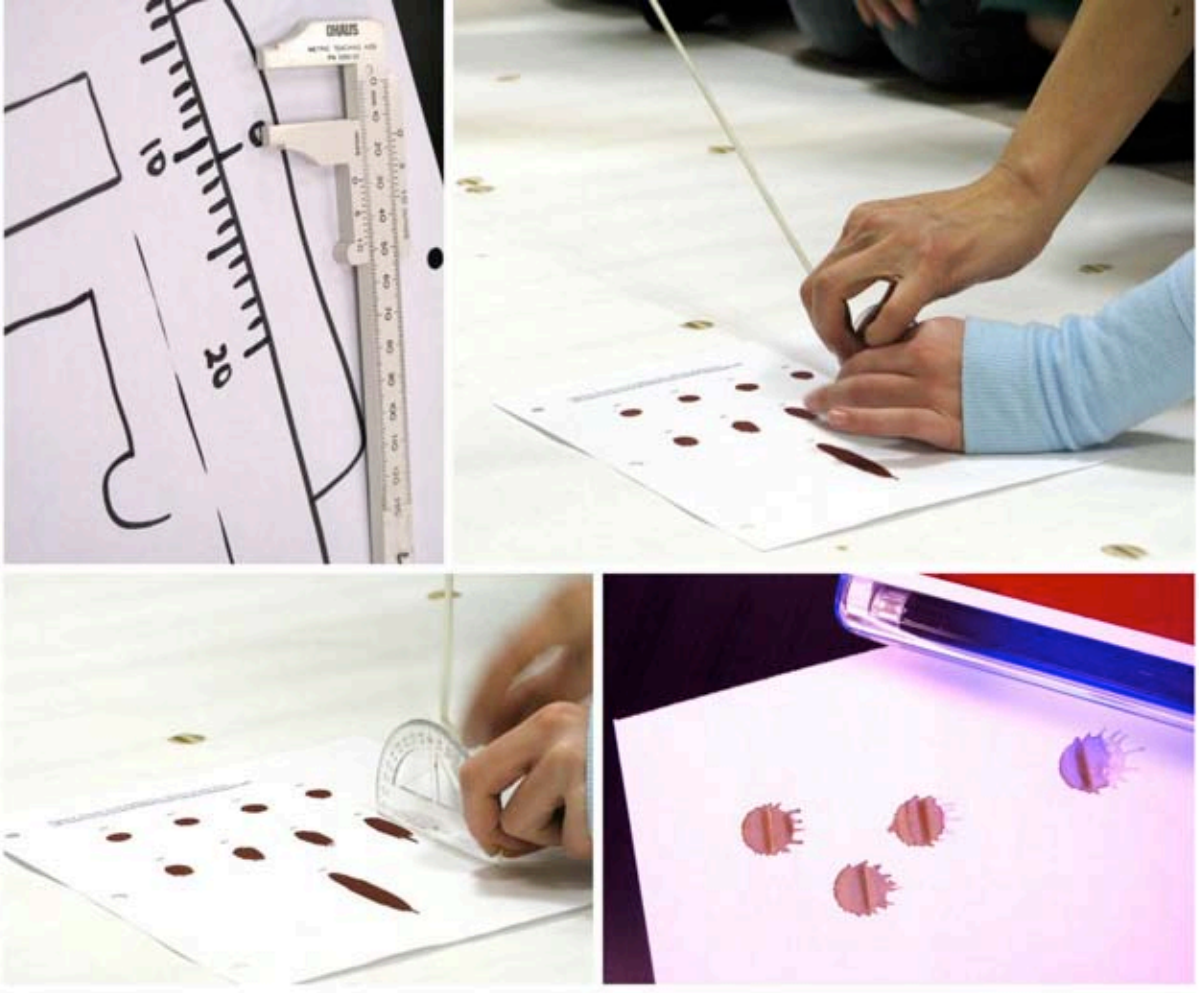






A note delivered to the principal's office can be analyzed.

We used chromatography to help match the ink in pens collected from Sari, Brandon, Tom, Dana and Joe.



We analyzed the angle of trajectory in blood splatter.