

Dental drills

Briar Glen students learn about tooth care

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Dozens of Briar Glen Elementary School fifth-graders got handfuls of tooth tips during a visit to the orthodontist's office.

Orthodontist John Murphy, whose office is in Glen Ellyn, set up four stations for students to learn all kinds of facts about how to keep their teeth sparkling white.

"There's a lot of science behind dental health care, and a lot of explanation that goes on at the orthodontist's office," said fifth-grade teacher Joy Salzman.

The first station informed students about how to brush and floss their teeth, the second allowed kids to make a mold of their thumb — as is often done with people's teeth, the third showed different X-rays of teeth and the last demonstrated how braces are put in.

Three classes of about two dozen students visited the office during different times in February and broke up into groups of about five kids. The groups rotated through the stations and at the end watched a movie about teeth.

Salzman said at first the students were slightly nervous because they thought they were going to a dental check-up, but afterward said the trip was a



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Briar Glen Elementary School students Becca Lasek, above left, Marissa Jourdan and Jeremah Fitzpatrick watch Jennifer Nielsen as she shows students how braces are put on teeth during a field trip to Orthodontist Dr. John Murphy's office in Glen Ellyn. At right, Sara Connolly demonstrates and teaches brushing tips.

fun way to learn about teeth.

"I thought it was very educational," she said. "It fit nicely with my curriculum because we're going to be talking about the human body soon."

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