

# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Print Page

## DNA Ambassador speaks to science classes at West Brunswick

*BY ROGERS WALKER JR., Staff writer*

SHALLOTTE--Joie Davis, a DNA Ambassador with the National Institute of Health, came to West Brunswick High School on Monday to speak to science classes about DNA and its various applications.

Davis spoke with Maryanne Gore's biotechnology class and Lisa Jones' biology class about different ways researchers use DNA in their work. NIH sends out researchers to talk at local schools across the country about the human genome and various real-world applications for DNA research. This outreach program is conducted in conjunction with National DNA Day, which is Wednesday, April 25.

Davis spoke to students at WBHS about different laboratory techniques and issues in research ethics. Davis, who is a nurse practitioner, also spoke about her experience working for the scientist who discovered the "Boy in the Bubble" gene. This was a gene expressed in a young boy named David Vetter, who had no immune system.

Gore said it was exciting for her students to be able to learn about how researchers routinely use the technologies that she teaches in her Biology class. For Tuesday, Gore's class planned on participating in an online forum with NIH researchers in which students could pose questions to the researchers.

Students also enjoyed learning more about the NIH, which is based out of Washington, D.C. Davis presented images of the NIH and showed students pictures of President Bush coming for a health checkup. She said Bush comes to the NIH for all of his medical treatment no matter how minor it might be.

Gore said she learned about the DNA Ambassadors program through the DESTINY Traveling Science Learning Program at UNC Chapel Hill. In order for a DNA Ambassador to visit a school, teachers have to make an application through the NIH.

---

Copyright © 2007. The Brunswick Beacon®