

Indiana Jones Pretender Leads Students on Chemistry Chase

PONTIAC – Last week, students at Walton Charter Academy teamed up with chemistry adventurer Ion Jones on a global quest to explore rainforests, deserts, glaciers, ancient temples and prehistoric carbon deposits.

While the journey – presented courtesy of Chrysler Group LLC and PPG Industries – is imaginary, the science involved is real.

Led by “Ion Jones” (a parody of the “Indiana Jones” movie hero), “Ion Jones and the Lost Castle of Chemistry” is a 45-minute interactive, traveling science exploration show created and presented by Carnegie Science Center of Pittsburgh with support from PPG that teaches students how chemistry affects industry, technology and the environment.

By the time students reach the “Lost Castle,” they have explored and observed chemistry in action courtesy of a fiery volcano, a cola geyser, an exploding hydrogen-filled balloon and other chemistry experiments.

“Chrysler Group is proud to be part of this effort to introduce children to the magic of science and technology, as well as the critical disciplines of math and science,” said Jody Trapasso, senior vice president – External Affairs, Chrysler Group LLC and president of The Chrysler Foundation.

“We hope this program produces the next generation of innovators who help change the world.”

Beyond the live shows, Chrysler

Group provided each participating school with a \$1,000 grant to purchase scientific kits. Once the kits are received, employees from the Chrysler Group’s Chassis Engineering organization will team up with the schools to help students learn about the science concepts that the engineers utilize as part of their everyday work.

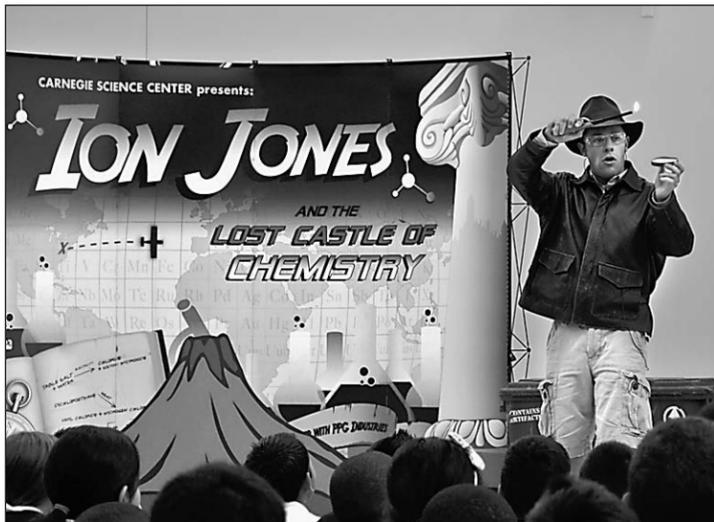
In addition to making a stop at the Walton Charter Academy, the interactive assembly made its way to Alcott Elementary, Pontiac; Great Oaks Academy, Warren; and Roose Elementary, Warren.

Meanwhile, students at Anderson Elementary School, Trenton; Hedke Elementary School, Trenton; Hillside Elementary School, Farmington Hills; and Whitman Elementary School, Pontiac, learned about the science of climate change and renewable energy technology with “Captain Green’s Time Machine,” another interactive Science on the Road educational program developed by PPG and the Carnegie Science Center.

In total, the programs reached more than 3,000 students.

“PPG is strongly committed to helping enhance the quality of life in communities where it has a presence such as Metro Detroit, especially through educational initiatives such as these Carnegie Science Center assemblies,” said Cindy Niekamp, PPG senior vice president, automotive OEM coatings, at the company’s Automotive Technology Center in Troy.

“We are excited to bring these programs to Walton Charter Acad-



Chrysler and PPG sponsor a Carnegie Science Center program.

emy and other schools in the Detroit area, and we hope they help students see how fun and exciting science and technology can be.”

PPG Industries is a supplier to Chrysler Group, GM and Ford. In former years, GM had a trav-

eling science show called “Previews of Progress,” that visited high schools nationally,

There is no connection between the two programs, other than the coincidence of wanting to inspire youth.

U.S. Auto Sales On the Rise

DETROIT (AP) – Whether it’s out of necessity or desire, Americans continued to buy cars and trucks at a strong pace in September.

Data from dealerships across the nation show that new vehicle sales should hit an annual rate of 14.5 million vehicles for the month, continuing a rebound that began in June, according to J.D. Power and Associates and LMC Automotive.

Much of the increase is driven by pent-up demand as people continue to replace aging cars and trucks that they’ve been driving since the Great Recession. The average age of a vehicle in the U.S. is approaching 11 years.

Pickup truck demand is helping to drive the sales, with September building on momentum from a strong August, Itay Michaeli, an industry analyst for Citi, wrote in a note to investors last week.

Pickup truck sales always jump in the fall.

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