

6th Grade Class visit

May 19, 2011

Ms Melinda Bernabe, Blair Middle School, PUSD

Belle Philibosian

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The class visit went really well! I was impressed by their geological knowledge (like the San Marino kids, they were able to tell me the kinds of plate boundaries and knew what a subduction zone was more or less). Models of the Earth and earthquake safety reports were recent class assignments which were displayed in the classroom. Ms. Bernabe is clearly an engaged and enthusiastic teacher; she told me that she actually never liked earth science when she learned it in middle school (probably had a bad teacher), but has found it one of the most fun subjects to teach. I gave more or less the same talk about my research that I did for the TO tour, followed by an extended question-and-answer period. Then we did the earthquake machine and slinky seismic wave demonstrations which were big hits as always, followed by more open-ended questions. I was amused by one kid who clearly reads or watches the news a lot, who kept asking me "Could you comment on...[the Japan earthquake, the Yellowstone supervolcano, etc.] Another student asked me whether the world was really going to end on Saturday; I told them not to worry about that for 5 billion years. In summary, I had a good time and so did the kids. :)