



# LEHIGH VALLEY ACS SECTION CELEBRATES MOLE DAY 2021 AT DA VINCI SCIENCE CENTER



Volunteers from the Lehigh Valley Section celebrated Mole Day with visitors to the Da Vinci Science Center on October 23<sup>rd</sup> (when else?) with exhibits and demonstrations illustrating this year's National Chemistry Week theme, "FAST/OR SLOW...Chemistry Makes It GO!" The group, consisting of representatives from across the section area, presented the importance of chemical kinetics and catalysis to approximately 100 parents and kids by showing how heat, concentration and catalysts/inhibitors affect chemical reaction rates. They explained the science involved by analogy with macroscopic collisions and by citing examples of important catalysts such as enzymes and industrial catalysts. Hands-on demonstrations of the effect of temperature on rate with 'Pop Rocks' and light sticks as well as the effect on apple browning rate of additives (vinegar, lemon juice, salt, sugar) motivated young visitors to learn by doing experiments. The Great Reaction Race Game further cemented the key concepts of managing reaction conditions and catalysts in 'Making the Chemistry Go.' Once an hour, the 'inflationary' chemistry of airbags was demonstrated (very carefully!) with decomposition of sodium azide,  $\text{NaN}_3$ , and then  $\text{NaN}_3/\text{KNO}_3$  mixtures. LVACS thanks Jennifer Pors and the Education staff of DSC for generous support of this event. Download the event's poster slide show [here](#).

Volunteers (L-R) Bridget Corpus and Samantha Greenberg (Lafayette College), Jane Bedell (Parkland High School, retired), Philip Elias (Muhlenberg College), Christopher Neff, Steve Boyer and Nigel Sanders (East Stroudsburg University) wave the ACS NCW banner in front of Da Vinci Science Center's Inquiry Island teaching space. [not pictured: Cherryann Joseph (Liberty University)]



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Samantha Greenberg (L) and Bridget Corpus welcome visitors to the LVACS exhibit.

Steve Boyer explains inhibition of apple browning.



Chris Neff helps give light sticks a bath (hot vs. cold)



Jane Bedell officiates the Great Reaction Race Game.

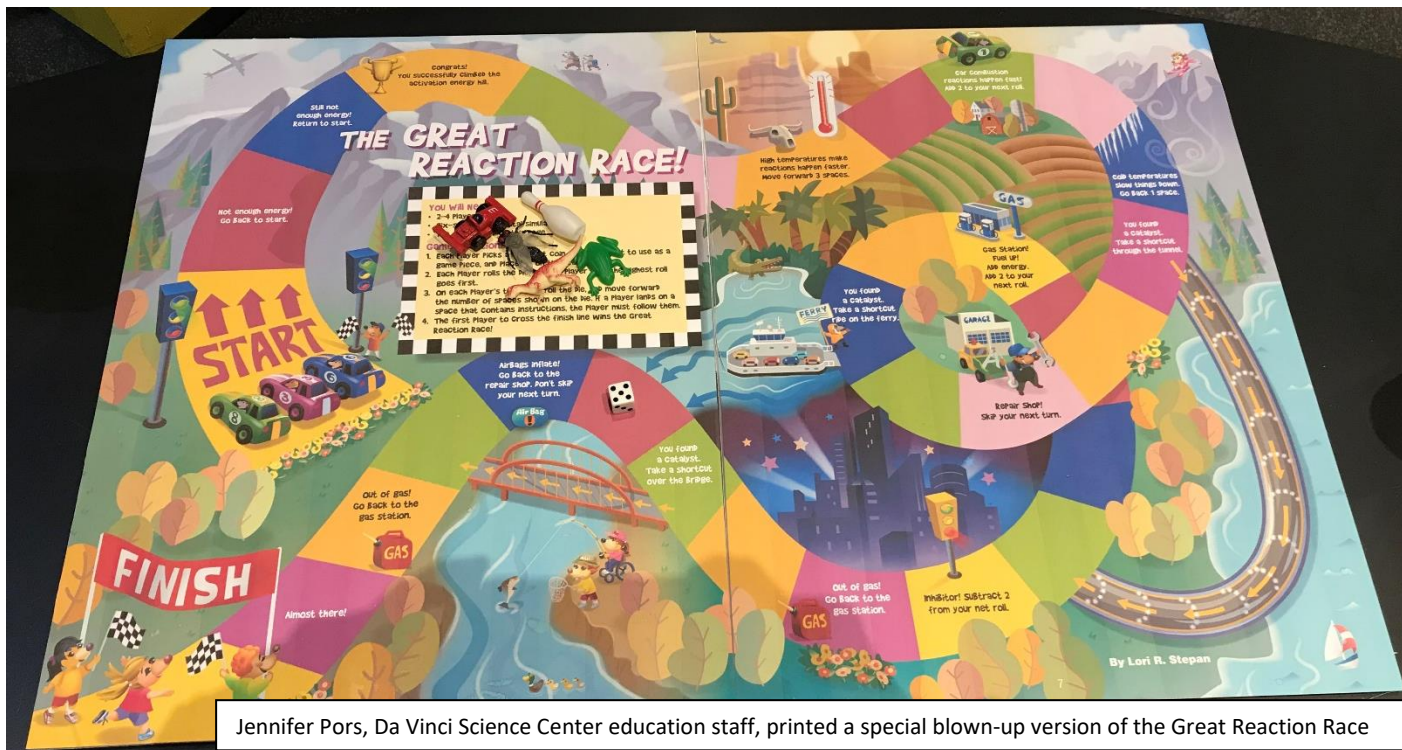


Cherryann Joseph and Philip Elias help a young experimenter measure out some Pop Rocks®: can we speed that taste explosion up?



My very first mole and periodic table!

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Jennifer Pors, Da Vinci Science Center education staff, printed a special blown-up version of the Great Reaction Race



We just love chemistry!



While humans discuss self-inflating balloons, Moles discuss tunneling rates...



Are we going to put candy into water or water into candy?