

HIPPOCRATES CIRCLE STUDENTS TOUR WOODLAND HILLS MEDICAL CENTER

December/January 2010

A group of middle school students from the San Fernando Valley enjoyed a hands-on tour of our Woodland Hills Medical Center this past November as part of the annual Hippocrates Circle Program.

The students, from Columbus Middle School Magnet in Canoga Park, Lawrence Gifted Magnet in Chatsworth and the Woodland Hills Academy, are participating in this year's program.

HCP at Woodland Hills

Established in 2005 at our Woodland Hills Medical Center, the Kaiser Permanente community outreach program encourages middle school students from all socioeconomic backgrounds to seek health care careers. The program is organized by Pediatrician Patricia De La Riva, MD, and Diana Jones, Assistant Department Administrator for Health Education.

During the tour, students visited the Radiology, Health Education and Pathology departments. Mark Schwartz, MD, led students on a tour through the Radiology Department where they studied CAT scan images and witnessed an ultrasound demonstration. In Health Education, students learned how to make healthy food choices from Health Educator Jennifer Ludlow and enjoyed a heart monitoring demonstration by Cydney Stewart, MD, Chief of Cardiology. In Pathology, Veronica Levy, MD, showed students how to use a microscope, and John Ohara, MD, shared various tissue samples with students.

The tour made a deep impression on the youngsters. "That was really fun," said Kourtney Dew, 13, an eighth-grader at Columbus Middle School. "I learned about different diseases and I got to see a brain and uterus."

Carla Cruz, 12, said the Hippocrates Circle Program will help her realize her dream of becoming a physician and helping people in her community. "There's a lady down my block who has diabetes," says the seventh-grader from Columbus Middle School. "I told her that I would join this program so I could become a physician and try to see if I could find a cure to help her out."