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IFS Speaker Series Brings Science Coach and Energy to Science Labs

Newburyport, MA--The energy and enthusiasm was contagious in the science labs at the Molin Upper Elementary school recently thanks to Science Coach Mike Koski and the Institution for Savings Science Speaker Series. Koski began working in January with teams of 4th and 5th grade teachers at Molin Upper Elementary. The goal: to increase student science curiosity and appreciation.

And so far it is working. Modeling his hand-on techniques in the IFS Science labs recently, Koski had students on the edges of their seats while teacher teams observed his methods in action. Koski uses a combination of high-tech and low-tech tactics to engage the students and get them thinking. In this lesson about energy transformation, students watched short video clips, had an interactive discussion, and then used simple items like paper cups, paper clips, and string to demonstrate what they had learned.

Teachers were impressed that the students were so engaged and excited. The students loved the activity and hand-on techniques.

The IFS Speaker Series is a ten-year commitment by the IFS to support science in the Newburyport Public Schools. The Institution for Savings Science Speaker Series is funded by the Newburyport Education Foundation (NEF) through a gift from the Institution for Savings. In 2006, the Institution for Savings gave the NEF a gift of \$500,000 to renovate the 30+-year old science labs at the R. A. Nock Middle School. In addition, IFS also pledged \$10,000 per year for 10 years to help with maintenance on the labs as well as start the Science Speaker Series to provide high quality professional development to science teachers at all grade levels and experiences for students to increase science curiosity and appreciation. For more information about the IFS Science Speaker Series, email info@newburyportef.org or call 978-463-7893.

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About the Newburyport Education Foundation (NEF) The Mission of the Newburyport Education Foundation is to bring philanthropy into the Newburyport Public Schools and generate financial resources that will enhance the quality of public education throughout the school system. Formed to enhance educational opportunities for the city's public school children, the goal of the Newburyport Education Foundation is to supplement funding for programs which are already supported by public financing at a basic level, but which can be substantially improved by additional private sector financing, and to finance programs that might not receive funding from traditional sources such as the district budget or state aid.